

**NTFL**  
**By-Laws**  
**2009**



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## **Article I: Name**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the North Texas Football League, Incorporated.

Section 2: This shall be a nonprofit organization.

## **Article II: Objectives**

Section 1: The objective of this organization shall be to promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, personal integrity, and team cooperation through participation and instruction in the game of football.

Section 2: The objectives of this organization shall be reached by providing supervised competition. The primary goal is to properly mold future citizens with encouragement toward good sportsmanship.

Section 3: Our objectives will be applied to everyone equally with no emphasis on ability. Anyone wanting to participate and meeting the eligibility requirements as set forth in Article IX, section 2 will be allowed to participate.

## **Article III: Offices**

Section 1: This organization shall maintain officers, as the governing body deems necessary to conduct the business of this association.

## **Article IV: Members**

Section 1: Membership of this organization shall consist of local associations dedicated to the same objectives as this organization. These organizations must meet certain membership requirements and have had their memberships approved by two-thirds vote.

A. Local associations must have a formal structure. This structure must include such things as bylaws, officers, etc., to be presented to the NTFL prior to their acceptance to this association.

B. Local associations shall appoint or elect at least two individuals to act as representatives on the board of the NTFL and shall have one vote per association.

- C. Local associations shall pay by August 15<sup>th</sup> the following:
- Insurance payment based on number of participants in flag, tackle and cheer
  - Officiating fee divided equally by participating associations
  - Fee for Super Bowl award medals divided equally by participating associations
  - Video Contract Fee, as entered into by the NTFL, to be divided equally by participating associations
  - NTFL will carry a band balance of \$1000
- D. Local associations shall provide facilities and/or services.
- E. Local associations shall have boundaries from which participants are drawn, acceptable to the board of NTFL as outlined in Article IX, Section 2.
- F. Local associations shall provide proof of excess medical and board liability insurance to the NTFL before the beginning of the football season (if not participating in the NTFL insurance program).
- G. No bylaw of any local association will supersede these bylaws.
- H. Associations petitioning for membership after February 6, 2007, will be subject to the following membership restraints:
1. Probation period shall be for one year.
  2. After first year approval, the new association shall not have a vote.
  3. After second year approval, the new association will become a full voting member with one vote.
  4. Acceptance of petitioning association requires a \$1000.00 membership fee, to be used, as NTFL deems necessary.
  5. Petitioning associations must submit to the NTFL copies of their bylaws for review. These bylaws will be reviewed for compliance with the NTFL bylaws, and any requested changes must be made prior to the beginning of the first regular season game. Failure to amend the bylaws is automatic dismissal from the NTFL. Any request from the NTFL board concerning the petitioning association's draft or any other function prior to the first regular season game

must be put forth at the local level as a resolution until the bylaw can be changed. This resolution must be made within thirty days notice from the NTFL board of requested bylaw changes. A copy of the minutes from the local association meeting must be submitted to the NTFL as proof of passage of the resolution.

6. The petitioning association must also provide the complete list of officers of their association to the NTFL board at the time of petitioning for acceptance.
7. NTFL reserves the right to suspend or demand replacement of any petitioning association's NTFL representative at any time and/or as a prerequisite for membership to the NTFL. If such a demand is made, the petitioning association has fifteen days to act on the request or forfeit their \$1000.00 membership fee.
8. Any additional information requested by the NTFL board must be submitted in writing within fifteen days of the request.
9. NTFL reserves the right to put any prerequisite on any petitioning association deemed necessary.
10. The NTFL also reserves the right to waive (in part or in whole) these requirements put on petitioning associations if deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership, including allowing the petitioning association to become a full voting member once all prerequisites have been met.

Section 2: Each association will be limited to one vote, and the NTFL president, in cases of a tie vote, will cast his/her vote to break the tie.

- A. A voting member may assign his/her vote by submitting a signed proxy to the secretary before the meeting in which the vote will be assigned.

Section 3: All associations (board of directors and members), whether charter members or probationary members, agree to hold harmless from responsibility for any and all actions, incidents or injuries, all associations, city parks and recreation departments, members, affiliated members, sponsors, participants, parents, executive board member, officials, and coaches.

## **Article V: Government**

- Section 1: An Executive Board shall be appointed or elected by the local associations. Each association belonging to NTFL shall be entitled to fill two positions on the Executive Board. The officers of the NTFL shall be current or past Executive Board members. If the president is elected from the current Executive Board, his/her home association will need to fill his/her position on the Executive Board.
- Section 2: The Executive Board being equally divided among the local associations will be the bylaw and rules enforcement arm of the organization. All decisions of the Executive Board are final with no course for appeal.
- Section 3: The Executive Board will be the board of directors for this organization. They will manage and conduct the business and affairs of the organization. They may exercise all such powers of the organization and do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute or by these bylaws otherwise regulated.
- Section 4: The Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered in these bylaws.
- Section 5: The organization shall keep correct and complete records of accounts, and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings.
- Section 6: The Executive Board shall have an annual meeting in January to discuss the state of the organization and provide at this meeting a reasonable complete balance sheet and income statement.
- Section 7: Any director or commissioner may resign by giving written notice to the president or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect immediately unless otherwise stated in the written notice. The acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- Section 8: In the event of the resignation of an executive officer, the NTFL president shall appoint an executive board member to complete the remainder of the term of the resigned member.

## **Article VI: Officers**

- Section 1: Two executive board members shall be elected or appointed by each local football association before the first meeting of the New Year. Each executive officer shall be elected to a term of one year. The position of President shall be rotated Coppel, Grapevine/Colleyville, Southlake, in that order, beginning 2009, in that order.
- A. No elected officer may hold any single office for more than four years.

- B. Any Executive Board member or officer may be removed from his office for bylaw violations at any meeting. The removal must be made by a majority of the voting members present at said meeting.
- C. All members of the board are considered the Executive Board. The Elected Officers are those with written duties to perform.

Section 2: Duties of the Elected Officers

A. The President shall:

1. Preside over all meetings.
2. Appoint committees and act as ex-officio.
3. Break any tie vote.
4. Authorize all checks to be written.
5. Call meetings when needed.
6. Perform other duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
7. Prepare an agenda for each meeting.
8. Shall veto any motion that he/she deems necessary. Veto may only be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members.

B. The Vice-President shall:

1. Preside over all meetings in the absence of the President.
2. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
3. Assume the duty of any officer who is unable to perform his/her duties until that office is filled.
4. Perform all duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
5. Perform the duties of the parliamentarian.

C. The Treasurer shall:

1. Sign all checks authorized by the President.
2. Maintain accurate financial records for the league.
3. Collect any dues, fines, etc., due NTFL
4. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
5. Perform all duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
6. Ensure required forms are filed annually.

D. The Secretary shall:

1. Take and preserve the minutes of all meetings and record all votes taken.
2. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
3. Handle all correspondence, as the board of directors shall prescribe.

D. Referee Commissioner shall:

1. Be the liaison between the league and the referees
2. These positions shall be non-voting positions.

- E. Web Director shall:
  - 1. Update all game results, game statistics, and any general NTFL information.

Section 3: Each member association must appoint or elect one commissioner who shall have the following duties:

- A. Coordinate matters between their local association and the Executive Board.
- B. Enforce all rulings by the bylaws of this association.
- C. Resolve any disputes concerning game rules/bylaw rules at local association game sites.
- D. Perform such duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
- E. In the event a commissioner is not at his/her local association field, he/she may appoint an alternate.
- F. Must wear an identifying hat approved by the NTFL board at all home games. The game official shall not be required to recognize anyone without this hat.
- G. Shall strive to set an example for the local association that best exemplifies the goals and objectives of this association.
- H. Will know the rules of play as well as, if not better than, anyone in the local association.
- I. Shall base all decisions rendered on what effect his decision will have on the rest of the association. No decision can be given which shows favoritism of one association over another.
- J. Shall ensure strict adherence to the bylaws of NTFL at his/her local association.
- K. Shall be first and foremost a commissioner of NTFL and second a member of his/her local association.
- L. Shall be accountable to the directors of NTFL for all matters brought before the board concerning their local association.
- M. Shall monitor the local association coaches to see that they are in compliance with the goals and objectives of NTFL in regard to the

treatment of the children under their care. May remove anyone if he/she is not in compliance with these bylaws at any NTFL event.

## **Article VII: Meetings**

- Section 1: A general meeting shall be held before the start of championship play.
- Section 2: Regular meetings of the board shall be held as directed by the president.
- Section 3: Special meeting of the board, the Executive Board, head coaches, committees and/or membership for any purpose, unless otherwise prescribed by statutes or by the bylaws, shall be delivered by the president or not less than three Executive Board members, or by three commissioners.
- Section 4: Forty-eight (48) hours written, printed, telephone or Internet notice stating the place, day and hour of any meetings (in case of special meeting, the purpose for which it is called) shall be delivered by or at the direction of the President, not less than three members of the Executive Board, or by three commissioners.
- Section 5: Two-thirds of the members entitled to vote must be present to constitute a quorum at all meetings. Proxies count towards this two-thirds count.
- Section 6: When a quorum is present at any meeting, the vote of the majority of members having voting power (including proxy) shall decide any questions brought before such meeting, unless the question is one that, by express provision, shall govern and control the decision of such question. The voting members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until the withdrawal of enough voting members to leave less than a quorum. Any member or members leaving a meeting to avoid a vote will be in violation of these bylaws (poor sportsmanship) and are subject to any action taken by the remaining members.
- Section 7: The board will sit from February 1 to January 31 and have a transitional meeting before January 31st.
- Section 8: The secretary shall notify the local associations of any fines or the removal of any individual.
- A. Any association failing to have representation at a meeting of which proper notification has been given shall be subject to action by the Executive Board.
  - B. Any executive officer failing to attend a meeting of which proper notification has been given shall be subject to action by the Executive Board, unless excused by the president.

- C. In the event of any association failing to be present at two meetings, the president may request that association to provide new executive board members. Further, any association failing to be present at the meetings may be put on probation and face possible expulsion from the NTFL.
- D. Any three executive board members may call a special executive board meeting at any time. The president will be required to set the time and place for all meetings. Members calling for the special meeting will be responsible for all expenses incurred for the purpose of this meeting.

Section 9: The NTFL board of directors shall have a meeting prior to the beginning of play with ALL the officials. The bylaws and rules changes will be covered and our expectations will be put forth.

Section 10: The NTFL will host one informational meeting annually with both incoming coaches and officials. Head coach participation is mandatory. The NTFL board must approve any exception.

## **Article VIII: Bylaws, Dues, and Resolutions**

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended or repealed annually at a predetermined meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present or by proxy. Changes will be in effect immediately.

Section 2: If any part of these bylaws shall be held invalid or inoperative for any reason, the remaining parts, so far as possible and reasonable, shall be valid and operative.

Section 3: Any dues, assessments, fines, etc., levied by NTFL against any individual or member association shall be paid as follows:

- A. Dues shall be established by the NTFL board and are payable to NTFL on demand by whatever means deemed proper by the NTFL board.
- B. Any fines levied by NTFL shall be due and payable within two weeks (15 days).

Section 4: Resolutions  
The Executive Board from time to time may approve any reasonable resolution put forth by any executive board member (including probationary members). This resolution will be in effect immediately. The resolution must be put forth for vote the following season for repeal or acceptance in the bylaws. No resolution may stay in effect for more than twelve months from acceptance date. No resolution can be put forth for

vote after failing to be accepted into the bylaws from the previous season. No resolution may be put in place to supersede any bylaw without a two-thirds vote.

Section 5: If any officer, commissioner, coach shall be determined guilty of a violation of NTFL bylaws or of misconduct at any NTFL sanctioned event (game site, practice sessions, meeting, etc.) the local association must take definitive action related to the violation within one week of the infraction. Initial violation and action taken must be reported to the NTFL board.

Section 6: Occurrence of the infraction, i.e., flagged during game, ejected during game, removed during game, warned at any event, warned by any NTFL official, warned by any game official, may be reviewed by the NTFL Board of Directors. If these issues are to be taken up at the next scheduled meeting of the NTFL board, said violators will be notified. If the said violator fails to appear, he/she gives up the right to defend themselves before the NTFL board and agrees to accept any punishment imposed by the board. The findings of the NTFL board and any penalty imposed are final.

A. A penalty or action imposed by the Executive Board of NTFL shall be final with no course for appeal.

B. This includes all board members and local associations.

C. Will also include all participants of NTFL games, as well as practices.

Section 7: The NTFL reserves the right to expel any official that is not in compliance with our bylaws and goals for the betterment of our children.

## **Article IX: Player Qualifications**

Section 1: Shall not be less than 5 years of age or over 12 years of age on or before June 1 of the current year.

A. Shall present to the local official at the time of registration a certified birth certificate (or a copy thereof). Proof of birth date accepted by local school district may also be accepted.

B. No child may participate if conditions of Article IX, Section 1 are not accomplished.

C. Any exceptions must be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 2: Shall participate only with the local association whose boundaries are defined by the player's residence, school district, or attendance at a

private school located within the associations' city limits. Executive Board must approve any exceptions. *Note: A one time exception is made for any player who participated on a TDFA member team in 2006. A one-time exception is also made for siblings of players who participated in 2006 AND will themselves be playing in 2007. Proof of registration and participation must be presented to the NTFL board before final approval.*

Section 3: Any child participating or who is eligible to participate in a school affiliated football program shall be prohibited from participation in NTFL as a player.

Section 4: Any children with special/physical needs MUST be brought before the NTFL Board for approval to participate in the program.

## **Article X: Coaches**

Section 1: The NTFL board will require ALL Coaches to sign the NTFL Code of Ethics, with your local association. All head coaches must live in the member association boundaries or *must have been a head coach for a TDFA (Tarrant Dallas Football Association) team in 2006 any exceptions must have NTFL Board approval.* Criminal background checks will be performed on all coaches by each association. All coaches will agree to have a criminal background check performed by their association.

Section 2: Each team must have one individual designated as a head coach.

- A. The head coach must carry team pictures and official team roster to all game sites, as well as a signed copy of the NTFL Coaches code of Ethics. The draft form is the official team roster.
- B. Penalty for not having picture and official roster at game site is **\$25.00** to the local association for the first offense. The coach may be required to appear before the NTFL Executive Board for the second offense. The Executive Board will determine any penalty.
- C. It is the responsibility of the head coach for conduct unbecoming to the objectives and goals of NTFL for himself/herself, his/her assistant coaches, players and the players' parents.
- D. NTFL rules allow for only one head coach, five assistant coaches, and one statistician to be on the field at game sites. (Seven adults maximum...does not include chain gang if you are the visiting team)
- E. The head coach and at least one alternate must attend the sports medicine/bylaw and officials meeting sponsored by their local association.

- F. The penalty for violation of Article XV and XVII Sections 5 and 6 shall consist of: first offense, a \$100.00 fine, notification to the NTFL board, and possible one-game suspension; second offense, automatic one-game suspension and \$250.00 fine to the local association; third offense, possible suspension/banning from the league.
- G. The board of directors dictates suspension.
- H. "Banned" is out for life.
- I. If any association takes action against a coach, parent, or participant, then that association must notify the NTFL board in writing of its decision.

## **Article XI: Divisions**

- Section 1: Flag division players aged 5 years and 6 years on or before June 1, may participate in this division.
- Section 2: Instructional Bantam division players aged 7 years on before June 1, may participate in this division.
- Section 3: Bantam division players aged 8 years on or before June 1, may participate in this division.
- Section 4: Super Bantam division players aged 9 years on or before June 1, may participate in this division.
- Section 5: Junior division players aged 10 years on or before June 1, may participate in this division.
- Section 6: Senior division players aged 11 years and 12 years on or before June 1 may participate in this division as per Article 10, Section 3.
- Section 7: Any deviations from sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 as listed above, MUST go through the local Association. Final approval is with the NTFL board. Any request(s) may be required to appear before the NTFL board.
- Section 8: Any parent that wishes to move their child up to the next division, MUST present a letter to the NTFL Board no later than the Sunday meeting prior to the Local Association draft on the following Saturday.

## **Article XII: Weight Restrictions**

- Section 1: No minimum weight restriction shall be required for participation.
- Section 2: Weight restrictions will be imposed in the following circumstances:

A. Weight restricted players may not handle the ball except as outlined in Section C or kicking off a tee.

1. No play can be designed for a stickered player to touch the ball.

B. Any weight restricted offensive/defensive player at the time of the snap of the ball must be stationary and within one yard of the line of scrimmage. The only positions allowed for a weight restricted player on offense are tight end, tackle, guard or center, if they are lined up at tight end they are not eligible to go out for a pass or advance the ball. The only positions allowed for a weight restricted player on defense are nose tackle, unless prohibited by the bylaws, the A, B, and C gaps and defensive end.

1. The definition of the line of scrimmage for NTFL shall be considered to be one yard parallel on either side of the ball. See diagram.

2. Penalty for first offense is 5-yard delay of game. Second penalty is 15 yards.

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**1 yard**  
**Football here**  
**1 yard**

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C. Weight restricted players may catch or advance the ball only on:

1. Blocked Punts
2. Fumbles
3. Interceptions
4. Stripping of the ball carrier
5. Kick off and kick off return if kicked directly to the player.

D. Offensive violations of Section 2 will result in loss of down.

Section 3: Any player exposed to the aforementioned circumstance shall have his/her weight certified by NTFL officials at the official weigh-in before the first regular season game.

A. The official weigh-ins shall be at a specified time and place designated by the NTFL board. Each association must make arrangements to have a minimum of two reps present at all times at the weigh-in. Failure to do so will be a mandatory fine of **\$500.00**. The president of the NTFL may grant an exemption to this requirement; however, the fine is mandatory if no exemption is given.

- B. Any player coming to the official NTFL weigh-in who does not have his/her helmet will have his/her weight listed on the official roster as an overweight player. The president or the Executive Board must approve any exceptions.

Section 4: Weight restrictions as mentioned in Article XII, Section 2 should be applied as follows:

- A. The flag division will have no weight restriction.
- B. The Instructional Bantam division restricted player weight shall not exceed seventy-five pounds (75) pounds at official weigh-in.
- C. The Bantam division restricted player weight shall not exceed eighty-five pounds (85) at official weigh-in.
- D. The Super Bantam division restricted player weight shall not exceed one hundred (100) pounds at official weigh-in.
- E. The Junior division restricted player weight shall not exceed one hundred ten (110) pounds at official weigh-in.
- F. The Senior division restricted player weight shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) pounds at official weigh-in.

Section 5: The designed and intentional use of a player in a weight restricted position whose weight exceeds that specified in Section 4, or of those whose weight does not exceed those in Section 4 but did not have their weight certified at an official weigh-in, does constitute a violation of the bylaws of NTFL, and the head coach will be subject to action under Article X. During the game the offending team will be assessed a fifteen-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. The coach will be suspended for one game.

Section 6: Those players at official weigh-in shall have their weights certified by NTFL officials. No Executive Board member may be the official weigh-in supervisor for his/her local association.

Section 7: Failure to participate in the weigh-in process will result in a player being stickered. Any exception will require NTFL approval.

Section 8: Any player whose weight is above the division weight restriction shall have his/her helmet labeled in a conspicuous manner by NTFL officials. Violation (for not wearing it) will cost the local association **\$25.00** for the

first offense. The second offense may be removal of the player from the official roster.

### **Article XIII: Player Certification**

Section 1: Each player is to be certified as to participation eligibility. Accepted forms of certification are:

- Birth Certificate and/or Passport
- Proof of residency in the form of utility bill or tax statement
- Proof of attendance in boundary school

Section 2: The official team roster shall serve as the document of certification, with team picture certified by NTFL officials. Team rosters will be made available upon request to each member association at any time.

Section 3: The local association shall have the responsibility for certification of player age, residence, and school district.

Section 4: No player shall participate who has not been certified.

Section 5: The penalty for playing a player whose age or residence was not certified, or has been falsified shall be suspension of the player from the NTFL. The head coach and local association may be brought before the Executive Board for consideration of bylaw violations under Article IX. The local association may elect to do, as they deem necessary to any coach for violating any bylaw; however, their final judgment does not prevent NTFL from imposing further penalties.

Section 6: Member associations are subject to a \$1000 fine if a player is found to not meet the certification requirements as outlined in Article XIII.

### **Article XIV: Player Allocation and Teams**

Section 1: No team in any division shall consist of less than 14 players and more than 18 players, provided an additional team with the minimum number of players of 14 can be made.

- A. If any team falls to 16 players or below, that team may go to the waitlist to obtain additional players to make up to 18 players on the team with Executive Board approval. These additional players, if signed up after the official weigh-in, shall be limited to participation as weight restricted players only. No player may quit one team and move to another team.
- B. Any exceptions to this article must be brought before the NTFL Executive Board.

Section 2: Player Registration

- A. All players shall register with their local association on or before the registration deadline. The Executive Board will approve this deadline.
- B. Each association shall have a registration period of no less than two (2) weeks before registration deadline.
- C. NTFL shall publish the registration deadline no less than eight (8) weeks before deadline.
- D. If a city sees that its numbers are down or not enough to split by the registration deadline then that city may register more players in that division. If a player plays up a division for two or more full seasons that player may never request to play back down.

Section 3: Draft - General Information

A. Player Allocation

- 1. Each association will adhere to the NTFL draft guidelines as follows. These draft guidelines were developed to provide consistency in drafting players for the NTFL leagues and to assist the draft auditors in the correct process and procedures to follow.
- 2. A NTFL representative will audit each draft. The auditor will be responsible for conducting the draft. The local association will be responsible for filling out all draft paper work. At the end of the draft, the auditor will conduct a private 'exit' poll of each coach to ensure the draft was fair and equitable. If an impropriety exists, the auditor will redraft the players using a blind draw.
- 3. The head coach will be allowed his son (or equivalent) and four coach agreement players per team to be agreed upon amongst coaches from his city at a meeting to be determined before the day of the draft. The coach will also have first right of refusal for players that played on the team the previous year, as his coach agree players. This meeting will be monitored by the local board members who will not be impacted by that draft. NTFL must be given 7 days notice of the date of the meeting so that Board members from other cities may attend. In the event an agreement for players cannot be resolved by a TBD date a formal NTFL coach agreement meeting will be held on a TBD date. The coaches will have 30 minutes to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached there will be a 15-minute break. Immediately after the break if there is still no agreement, each coach will get one assistant's son as a coach agreement and remainder of the players will be selected through the draft. An NTFL Official from another association will attend the formal coach agreement meeting.

4. If a parent requests that his/her child not be coach agreed by a particular coach that child must be placed into the draft, he is not eligible to be coach agreed by another coach.
5. The order of the draft will be serpentine and determined by a numbered drawing by the coaches. The format will be (i.e. 1, 2, 3 reverses to 3, 2, 1).
6. The draft table may have a maximum of two representatives per team. The head coach and assistant, the assistant coach's child must be one of the coach agreed players.
7. Roster Players are players who are automatically placed on a team.  
*Example:*
  - a. *Head Coach's Son*
  - b. *Coach Agreement Players*
  - c. *Brothers of Other Roster Players*
  - d. Any exceptions to the above must have NTFL approval
8. At the time of the Draft, each team must start with the same amount of players. If Team A has 6 Roster Players and Team B has 5, and Team C has 6, there will be a blind draw to even up. Poker chips must be utilized in the even up process.  
*Example:*
  - a) *Numbered poker chips will be placed in a container. The poker chips are associated with an individual player to be assigned to the team. Team B picks one chip and Team C picks two.*
9. Each league will supply poker chips for the draft. These chips are subject to review by the auditor.

B. "Hat" Picks.

1. "Hat" picks are not the same as the blind draw. "Hat" picks are the
2. Players who did not attend the grass drills and are not on the draft sheet. These players are numbered using a bank of poker chips (i.e. 210 - 215). A coach may elect to go to the "Hat" at any time during the draft. Hat pick players will be included in the even up process.

C. Brother Picks:

1. When you pick a brother, the other brother is automatically placed on the team as the next pick.
2. If a brother is a coach agreement player, the other brother is the first round draft pick. No exceptions.

*Example:*

- a. *You pick a brother (older age group) in round 3. The younger brother is automatically placed on the team. You pick a brother (twin) in the third round; the other brother is automatically your 4<sup>th</sup> round pick.*

D. Head coaches are prohibited from relinquishing their positions (stepping down) to add additional players/coaches to their roster.

E. Grass Drills for all players may be conducted at the discretion of the association but no more than two weeks before the draft.

F. Any or all plays and team formations are prohibited during these grass drills.

G. Each local association shall establish a specific time and place, within NTFL guidelines, to conduct player allocation.

H. No draft auditor may monitor his/her local association draft.

I. When deemed necessary, the board shall appoint alternates for assigned auditors to serve in their absence.

J. At the conclusion of each draft, the draft auditor shall cause to be prepared an official roster for each team.

K. The official roster form shall be provided by NTFL.

L. The official roster form shall include:

1. Local association and region commissioner
2. Team name
3. Team division
4. Team conference (added later)
5. Head coach name, first assistant
6. Player number
7. Player name
8. Player residence
9. Player school
10. Player age
11. Birth date
12. Weight ( O Over or U Under)

13. Signature of head coach, region commissioner, draft auditor, and NTFL official

M. The draft auditor shall retain and submit the original copy of the roster to the NTFL secretary at a prescribed time and place.

Section 4: Following player allocation and roster acceptance, the head coach may begin team practice.

A. No practice shall be conducted on Sunday.

B. No practice shall be held before the official starting date set by NTFL.

C. No team shall practice more than four (4) days per week after the start of school. No practice shall exceed two (2) hours in length.

D. Flag teams shall practice no more than four (4) days per week. No practice shall exceed two (2) hours in length.

Section 5: League Season

A. Starting date, number of games and scheduling will be determined by the Executive Board.

B. The Executive Board at an annual scheduling meeting shall establish the procedure for determining playoff participation.

Section 6: If a game is cancelled due to lightning it will be made up on the Sunday immediately following the Saturday the game was originally scheduled. If the game cannot be made up on that Sunday, it will be cancelled.

A. In the event of forfeiture by the visiting team, said team shall be liable to the home team for any officiating expenses incurred by the latter as a direct result of the forfeiture.

B. In the event of adverse weather conditions during a game in which the officials have postponed play, the two (2) head coaches and area commissioner may elect to call it an official game at that point with no makeup. The NTFL Executive Board will determine the decision about the status of the make up of the postponed game.

C. If a city can't play, for whatever reason, then that city has 48 hours to reschedule the missed games. These games must be made up within a reasonable timeframe agreed to by the NTFL board. Failure to do this will result in forfeits by the home team for all games not played.

## **Article XV: Player Participation**

- Section 1: Every player shall participate as a player in every game in which he/she is in attendance.
- Section 2: An injured or ill player in attendance at a game shall be allowed in the bench area and shall not be required to play provided he/she is not in full pads.
- Section 3: Each player will play a minimum of seven (7) downs per half (14 minimum per game) in every game in which he/she is in attendance. The 7 plays must occur during regulation play. Kick-off or return teams will count as part of this rule. Walk off punts do not count as a play.
- Section 4: Only a member of the NTFL Board for any reason may grant authorization for restriction of a player's participation to a requesting head coach. The player's parent(s) must be notified prior to the beginning of play. No Executive Board member that is also a head coach may grant him/herself a restriction. They must seek out another Executive Board member to ask for the restriction.
- Section 5: Each coach must use the **NTFL APPROVED STATISTIC SHEET**. This sheet must record player name, game, date, and number of downs per player a minimum of seven (7) and signature of statistician and head coach. NTFL officials will randomly check statistic sheets. Each team is required to have a monitor on the opposing team sideline outside the 30 yard line to monitor players are getting a minimum of seven plays per half. They may be located next to the team stat person. Each team will have two copies of their Stat sheet so the monitor may have one. At the end of the game, the coach's stat sheet is to be given to the ref or NTFL official to be added to the game outcome reports. In the event the head coach does not keep an active 7 Play Stat Sheet, he will be ejected for the current game and the next game and forfeit the game that the infraction occurred. Any exceptions will be subject to NTFL approval.

## **Article XVI: Play-offs**

Section 1: The NTFL final and semi-final playoffs will alternate sites between zones from year to year.

A. Playoff locations and schedules shall be established by the Executive Board.

Section 2: Playoff Tie Breakers  
The following is a clarification on how tiebreakers are handled in the playoffs:  
First - Win/Loss  
Second - Head to Head  
Third - Strength of Schedule

Fourth - coin flip.

If there is a 3-way tie and teams don't play each other we go straight to Strength of Schedule.

## **Article XVII: Game Rules**

Section 1: All games shall be played according to the current rules of the NCAA, with the Texas High School UIL exceptions and the exception of NCAA jersey numbering systems (i.e., no ineligible jersey numbers) unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

Section 2: Game duration

- A. Each game will consist of four (4) quarters with a 10-minute half time.
- B. Quarters in the instructional bantam division shall be ten (10) minutes.
- C. Quarters in the bantam division shall be ten (10) minutes.
- D. Quarters in the super bantam division shall be ten (10) minutes.
- E. Quarters in the junior division shall be ten (10) minutes.
- F. Quarters in the senior division shall be ten (10) minutes.
- G. Time of quarters may, by mutual consent of opposing head coaches, be shortened at any time during the game.
- H. Game forfeit time (15 minutes allowance approved).

Section 3: Football sizes

- A. All game balls must be a good grade of leather Wilson as approved by the Board of Directors of NTFL.
  - 1. Flag division will use K2 (Wilson).
  - 2. Bantam division will use K2 (Wilson).
  - 3. Junior division will use TDJ (Wilson).
  - 4. Senior division will use TDJ (Wilson).

Section 4: Coaches

- A. For both instructional bantam and bantam division, one coach can be on the field (offensive or defensive) but are to be ten (10) yards from the deepest player prior to the snap. Once the offense is lined up in their position, coaches are not to direct/talk to players.
  - 1. First offense - warning
  - 2. Second offense - 5-yard illegal procedure penalty
  - 3. Third offense - new coach on field for the remainder of that game.

- B. In all other divisions, coaches will only be allowed on the field to help an injured player.
- C. Bench area will be restricted to players and coaches only.
- D. Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties against any coach will be accompanied with a 15-yard penalty. The official MUST eject the coach at his second infraction. This is an ejection only. The team will not be assessed a 15-yard penalty for the second infraction.

Section 5: Game winner determination

- A. The team scoring the most points in regulation time shall be judged the winner.
- B. Scoring values:
  - Touchdown = 6 points
  - Safety = 2 points
  - Points after touchdown
    - Passing/Running = 1 point from the three yard line
    - Passing/Running = 2 points from the seven yard line
    - Defensive Advancement is allowed on the passing/running attempt, if successful, 2 points will be awarded.
    - Kicking = 1 point
  - Field goals = 3 points
  - Forfeit (offended team wins by) 1 point to 0 points
- C. If, at the conclusion of regulation play, both teams are tied in score, the game will be continued in the following format:
  1. The below description on tiebreakers shall apply to all Instructional Bantam, Bantam, Super Bantam, Junior, and Senior games. There are no ties in NTFL football games.
  2. NTFL has adopted the NCAA rules for overtime. The team with possession at the end of regulation will maintain possession and will not change direction. There will be a one-minute break, and then play is to resume. Each coach will be allowed one time out in overtime. (This is not for each overtime quarter. Only one time out for the entire overtime period). NCAA overtime rules with the following exception will be used if at the end of regulation play the score is tied.
    - a. The starting position for the first overtime period will be at the 25-yard line.

- b. Each subsequent overtime period the starting position of the ball will be moved 10 yards closer to the goal line until reaching the 5 yard line. (i.e. 25,15,5).
  - c. In the case of no one scoring by the third overtime (ball on the 5 yard line), the ball shall continue to be placed on the 5-yard line for all subsequent overtime periods.
- D. If at any time during regulation play a team is leading another by thirty (30) points or more, in the second half, from that time on the game clock shall not be stopped except for the following:
- 1. A team still has time-outs left.
  - 2. The official stops it.
  - 3. Seven-play rule is still in place but not used to penalize a coach due to time shortage.
  - 4. Trailing team will receive the ball at their own 40-yard line when the leading team scores as long as the deficit is more than 30 points.
  - 5. If the deficit falls to less than thirty (30) points due to points scored by the trailing team, the clock shall return to a regular running clock with stops and starts. The clock can return to a running clock at anytime the score has a team leading by thirty (30) points or more.

Section 6: Trophies, awards, and sponsors

- A. Sponsor name may appear on player's uniform with NTFL approval.
- B. Sponsors should be those organizations, firms or companies whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of youth. Specifically no firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to sponsor the program or be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.
- C. The Board of Directors shall authorize any trophies and or awards presented under the auspices of NTFL.
- D. The head coach of the team receiving recognition may keep any NTFL award represented by a singular item (i.e., team trophy)
- E. Reward stickers may be given out but may not be given for big hits, skull and crossbones sticker is not allowed.
- F. Participants in championship play-offs may receive awards from NTFL.

Section 7: Kicking Game

- A. In Flag, Instructional Bantam, Bantam, and Super Bantam, a punt is an automatic (20) yards. (the ball may penetrate the 20).
- B. Juniors and Seniors may punt with full rush allowed by the defense.
- C. Attempted Field Goals will have a full rush by the defense.

Section 8: Extra Points

- A. If the extra point is a run or pass, it is one (1) point from the three (3) yard line and two (2) points from the seven (7) yard line. No stickered player may touch or advance the ball.
- B. Kicking an extra point will have no rush and count as one (1) point from the three (3) yard line. All players, including weight restricted players, are eligible to kick. No faked extra points. The snap must be a clean snap from the center to the holder. The center must snap between his legs and the holder must stay on one knee at all times. If the ball touches the ground after leaving the center's hands before touching the tee it is a dead ball. The kicker must begin to kick the ball immediately upon the completion of the snap.

Section 9: Covered Center

- A. It is illegal to lineup a player on the line of scrimmage over the center in the Flag, Instructional Bantam and Bantam Divisions. Lining up in the "A"Gap, in between the center and guard is allowed. All other divisions can line a man up over center on the line of scrimmage. The penalty for having a player lined up over the center at the snap of the ball is ten (10) yards and an automatic first down. Flag and Instructional Bantam must line up a yard off the ball.

Section 10: Blitzing

- A. Blitzing linebackers, cornerbacks/safeties or overloading any single gap is not allowed in the Flag or Instructional Bantam Divisions. The penalty for this infraction is ten (10) yards and an automatic first down.

Section 11: Officials

- A. Excessive running of the clock by the officials will be cause for refusal of game payment. The offending official must be warned prior to refusal of payment.
- B. Officials are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Any official that is considered as goading a coach will be removed at once (to be determined by the field commissioner).

- C. Any coach, parent or any other person or persons confronting an official in any disrespectful manner at any time will be subject to the full penalty extent and maximum penalty that can be imposed by the NTFL board of directors.

Section 12: Game Ejections:

- A. Game reports will include any ejections. They must include the half in which the ejection occurred. A written report is to be done by the Officials.
- B. If a child or coach receives two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a game, that child or coach, is to be ejected for the remainder of that game the next game.
  - a. For a second ejection offense during the season, the child or coach, is ejected from the remainder of that game and for the next two games.
  - b. For the third ejection offense during the season, the child or coach, is immediately ejected from the current game and expelled for the remainder of the season and any subsequent playoff games.
  - c. If an ejection occurs and the penalties cannot be served in the current season because of a season ending game or playoff game, the penalties will carry over to the next season and be served until all ejection provisions are satisfied.
  - d. If an ejection occurs for the coach, and the coach is not returning for a subsequent season and therefore cannot serve the penalties provided herein, the NTFL Board may take action against that coach and his team up to and including forfeiture of the game where the ejection occurred.
  - e. If a child throws a punch, this action is grounds for immediate ejection by the official and counts toward the ejection actions in the above paragraphs.

## **Article XVIII: Protest Procedure**

Section 1: No protest will be allowed concerning officials (includes all judgment calls and quality of officials). These items fall under complaint category and should be reported to the local region commissioner.

Section 2: To protest game in progress

- A. Head coach will call a time-out (will not count as a charged time-out for game).
- B. Head coach will inform the official that he wants to protest game. Immediately following the notification to the official, the protest fee must be paid to the Field Commissioner. (No other explanation is necessary).

- C. Any protest must be accompanied by a NON-REFUNDABLE protest fee. Protest fee shall be \$150.00 payable at the time of notification.
- D. Request region commissioner and head coach of other team to meet in private. (No spectators, officials, or assistants present).
- E. Explain details of protest to region commissioner and other head coach.
- F. Complete game with no other interruptions concerning the protest.
- G. Immediately after game, if possible, but no later than 72 hours, reduce the protest to writing and submit to the region commissioner for delivery to NTFL Executive Board.
- H. The region commissioner, upon receiving the protest, must notify all parties concerned before submitting to the NTFL Executive Board.
- I. All decisions of the Executive Board concerning all protests, either game rules or rule violations of NTFL bylaws, are final with no course for appeal.

Section 3: To protest any other violations of NTFL rules or by-laws, start at G above and proceed through H.

Section 4: **No protest will be acted on if all the above items or steps are not adhered to, and protest will be disregarded.**

## **Article XIX: Flag Football Rules**

Section 1: Flag Draft:

- A. The Flag draft will be monitored by the NTFL to ensure the teams are even by age group. The draft will be conducted using the guidelines but teams may blind draw if they desire.

Section 2: Players

- A. A game may be played between two teams consisting of a minimum of nine (9) players each.
- C. Only players appearing on the official NTFL team rosters are allowed to play.
- D. Any division may play with nine (9) players at any time. The offensive team must have seven (7) players on the line and one in the backfield.

- E. Mandatory play rule: All players will play a minimum of seven (7) plays per half.
- F. A team will have 30 seconds to put the ball in play after the ready signal.
- G. One coach from each team shall be on the field at all times for the purpose of lining up his/her team. No coaching is allowed after team has been set for play.

Section 2: Playing fields

- A. The field shall be a normal football field reduced to 80 yards.
  - 1. This field measures one hundred yards in length with two end zones of ten yards each. It is 50 yards wide.
  - 2. Goal posts are unnecessary as points after conversions are made only by passing or running and there are no field goals kicked.

Section 3: Equipment

- A. The flags will be attached to the pants with NTFL approved Velcro that is sewn on the side seam of the waistband.
- B. Flags will be yellow, 10 inches long and 2 inches wide.
- C. The securing of flags to the body or waist other than provided by 3B above is illegal.
- D. Jerseys cannot be worn over flags.
- E. If a player's flag is inadvertently lost, he/she is ineligible to handle the ball.
- F. Mouth pieces are mandatory for all participants.

Section 4: Game uniform

- A. All team members must wear the same color jersey.
- B. All jerseys will be numbered, front and back, for proper identification by officials and statisticians.
- C. Only football or baseball type pants may be worn.
- D. Jerseys will be tucked in at all times.

E. Molded rubber cleats are required.

Section 5: Prohibited equipment

A. All hard surface padding such as shoulder pads, hip pads, and helmets are prohibited.

B. Hard metal or any other hard substance on a player's clothing or person.

C. Anything that conceals the flags.

D. Sticky substances such as grease or glue on a player's clothing, body, or equipment.

E. Any equipment, in the opinion of the referee, that will endanger or confuse players.

F. FLAG BELTS ARE PROHIBITED.

Section 6: Officials

A. There will be two (2) referees.

B. There shall be at least three (3) referees for a sanctioned NTFL play-off/championship.

Section 7: The Rules of the Game

A. Players - the free substitution rule is always in effect and a player may enter the game anytime the ball is dead.

B. Team coaches - one coach for each team will be permitted on the field.

C. The 80-yard field, all penalties will be 5 yards

Section 8: Time

A. Four 15-minute quarters with running clock. Clock will stop only for time-outs, injuries or referee discretion. The clock will be kept to regulation during two (2) minutes of a half.

B. Three (3) time-outs per half.

C. Ten (10) minutes between halves.

D. Only the Flag teams will have ties as game outcomes. Ties will be assessed at .5 points. Wins will receive 1 point and losses 0 points.

Section 9: Ball Placement

- A. Each half will start with the ball placed on the 20-yard line of the receiving team and for each kickoff.
- B. The referee will call the team captains together for a toss of a coin to decide a choice of receiving. The winning captain has the choice.
  - The losing captain has the same choice at the beginning of the second half.

Section 11: De-flagging

- A. There shall be no tackling of the ball carrier, passer, or kicker.
- B. The player carrying or having possession of the ball is down when flag is removed from his/her waist (de-flagging). The defensive player shall hold the flag above his/her head and stand still.
- C. The defensive player cannot hold or push the ball carrier to remove his/her flag. An accidental touch of the body or shoulder while reaching for the flag shall not be considered a violation; however, touching of the head or face shall be considered a violation.
- D. A defensive player may not run over, push, or pull a blocker away from him/her. He/she may push him sideways if he gets past him/her, but he/she cannot push the blocker down.
- E. A defensive player must go for the passer's flag. He/she cannot touch the passer's arm.

Section 12: Blocking

- A. A blocker must be on his/her feet at all times while blocking. All linemen, except the center, must not assume the three-point stance or otherwise sprint from a coiled or crouching start. Instead, they must simply stand at the line of scrimmage and await the snap. The center, though crouching, if he/she is to block, must first stand straight up.
- B. Cross body and roll blocking are not permitted.
- C. An offensive player will be restricted in the use of his/her hands to the defensive player's body and shoulders.
- D. A defensive player cannot block or push a ball carrier out-of-bounds.
- E. Butting, elbowing or knee blocking is not permitted.

- F. In Flag, the neutral zone will be expanded to one yard either side of the ball.
- G. There will be no two-on-one blocking for the ball carrier beyond the line of scrimmage.
- H. Blocking a player from behind is not permitted (clipping).
- I. There will be no interlock blocking.
- J. A defensive player will be restricted in the use of his/her hands to the blocker's body and shoulders.
- K. There shall be no offensive downfield contact block beyond the three yards either side of the line of scrimmage. If a downfield block occurs, the ball will be placed at that spot or at the spot the ball carrier is at the time of the infraction, whichever is furthest from the defense's goal line. See diagram.

**3 yard**

**Football here**

**3 yard**

Section 13: Ball Carrier

- A. The ball carrier cannot use his/her hands or arms to protect his flags. The defensive player must have the opportunity to remove the ball carrier's flags.
- B. The ball carrier cannot lower his/her head to drive or run into a defensive player.
- C. Stiff-arming by the ball carrier is illegal.
- D. The ball carrier cannot spin or hurdle to prevent a defensive player from removing his/her flags.
- E. He/she may run in any direction until the ball is declared dead.
- F. For the center to be eligible to carry the ball, he must transfer possession of the ball to a player in the backfield first.

Section 14: Center

- A. The center must snap the ball between his/her legs.
- B. He/she must have both feet on the scrimmage line with no part of

his/her body beyond the forward point of the ball.

- C. He/she may adjust the long part of the ball at right angles to the scrimmage line, one time only.

Section 15: Passing

- A. All backfield players are eligible passers.
- B. Passing will be attempted from behind the line of scrimmage only.
- C. A lateral pass is a pass thrown parallel to the line of scrimmage or back toward the passer's own goal line. A lateral pass is not considered a forward pass.
- D. A forward pass is a pass thrown from behind the line of scrimmage toward the defensive team's goal line.

Section 16: Receiving

- A. Only backs and ends are eligible to receive forward passes.
- B. Two or more receivers may touch a ball in succession resulting in a completed pass.
- C. If an offensive and defensive player catches a pass simultaneously, the ball is declared dead at the spot of the catch and the passing team is awarded possession.
- D. An offensive player cannot be out-of-bounds and return in-bounds to catch a pass. This will be ruled an incomplete pass.

Section 17: Dead ball - All balls touching the ground are immediately dead. (For example, the ball is declared dead at the following times):

- A. When the ball carrier touches the ground with his/her body, other than hands or feet.
- B. When the ball carrier's flag has been pulled.
- C. If a pass receiver or ball carrier has a missing flag (ball is dead at the spot).
- D. Following a touchdown, safety or touchback.
- E. When the ball goes out-of-bounds for any reason.

- F. If the center's snap hits the ground before reaching a backfield player.
  
- G. When the ball hits the ground as a result of a fumble or muffed ball. There are no fumble recoveries in NTFL Flag, and no stripping of the ball is allowed.
  
- H. If a lateral pass touches the ground, ball is declared dead at that point. If a lateral pass goes out-of bounds, the ball is ruled dead at the point it crosses the boundary line.
  
- I. If a forward pass strikes the ground or is caught at the same time by an opposing player(s).

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