

# **LaBelle Community Football League West BYLAWS AND LEAGUE POLICIES**

The following Bylaws and policies have been adopted this \_\_\_\_\_. This set of bylaws supersedes and surpasses any and all previous bylaws and shall be the full listing of all bylaws and policies currently in effect for the LCFL. There shall be no Grandfathering of exceptions to any bylaw in unless specifically stated within the bylaw.

## **Bylaw 1: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be known as the LaBelle Community Football League (**LCFL League**). It is a developmental professional football league promoting professional – style football competition for young adults. The league may be identified in short as the LCFL.

## **Bylaw 2: MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. Definition of Membership:**

Membership shall include all football organizations which are currently under agreement with the LCFL. This agreement shall be in writing and a copy of which shall be kept by the secretary of the LCFL WEST. A copy of the current membership agreement is attached as Exhibit “A”. No other agreement shall be used by the LCFL unless there is an existing agreement with a remaining time period. However, any member team operating under a previous agreement with the LCFL hereby fully endorses and agrees to the Bylaw as they are now stated as part of their agreement to be a member of the LCFL.

Ongoing membership is contingent upon being a member in “good standing” which shall specifically include the following in its inherent definition:

- 1 Adherence to all Membership Agreement terms
- 2 Adherence to all Bylaws and Policies
- 3 Adherence to any rules created pursuant to enforcement of the Bylaws
- 4 Payment of all fees, fines and other amounts as per Membership agreements, Bylaw enforcement or as otherwise assessed by authorized league votes.
- 5 Member teams must provide the league with formal entity organization. Each team must provide the league with current TAX ID numbers, specific form of business organization (i.e. sole proprietor, partnership, LLC...ect...)

### **B. General Membership Limitations:**

- 1 Total number of members in the LCFL West shall not exceed **(32)** teams, with no more than **(4)** divisions with **(8)** teams per division.
- 2 All Member Teams shall be reviewed in the January Meeting. Unless there is a motion put to vote by all members to deny membership renewal to a current member each membership renewal offering shall be

automatic. Any Member team that is either excluded from Membership or chooses not to renew their membership shall retain the right to participate in any remaining playoffs or all star events. This right may only be removed by a separate motion based on violation of an LCFL death penalty violation.

- 3 New membership applications Exhibit "B" must be completed and returned to the league prior to the January expansion meeting. Failure to complete and submit the application before the January meeting shall prohibit a new member from application or consideration unless a motion to waive this requirement is passed by the LCFL owners in an open meeting.
- 4 New Member teams must attend the January Expansion meeting conducted by the expansion committee. The committee shall then determine the appropriate candidates for general membership approval. These candidates shall appear at the January general owners meeting prepared to give a presentation and answer questions. Once the presentations are made the LCFL member shall vote on each individual team's acceptance into the league.
- 1 Member teams may be removed from the league for violation of a death penalty bylaw listed herein. For such process, a member team must make a motion to assign an investigation committee to review the alleged violation of said penalty. If such a motion is passed, the President shall assign three members to the committee and name a chair to that committee. These members may not be involved in the accusation, be an alleged victim of or perpetrator of the death penalty bylaw subject matter. The President shall give the committee one week to fact find and present its findings to the President. Upon hearing the facts, the President may elect to either call an emergency phone conference meeting, in persons meeting, or table the matter to the next general meeting. Upon the meeting decision, the President shall present via-email or paper handout depending on the setting of the meeting, the facts as presented to him by the committee. At this point the offending Team shall have the opportunity to present any information or defense to the allegations. Once the accused has spoken the floor will be open to motion to expel the organization, or to find an alternative fine and or penalty. If a motion is made and seconded on death penalty, there must both be a quorum and of that quorum a simple majority shall suffice to carry the decision. Should an alternative to death penalty be suggested, there must be a majority and a simply majority shall suffice to implement the decision. As with any vote, only the President, Commissioner and National Director have a veto power over this matter. If such a Veto is made, then a super majority or 2/3 vote must be had in a quorum to be sufficient to carry the motion. Upon receiving a death penalty, the member team shall be immediately stripped of its standing, leave the meeting, all remaining games on its schedule shall be forfeits and any and all monies owed in fines/fees or otherwise shall remain payable. The member team shall be removed from the website and no mention of the reasons shall be made by any member of the LCFL unless a motion to create a press release is

made and passed. All Monies collected by the LCFL from the team of whatever kind shall be forfeited to the league by the team. All aspects of this penalty are the liquidated damaged portion of the LCFL contract if currently used, or in the alternative and agreed penalty to any team not currently under the standard LCFL agreements.

- 5 Any Member Team which must fold or resign from the LCFL during the term if its membership agreement must abide by the following:
  - a. Forfeiture of all monies paid into the LCFL regardless of outstanding obligation to the LCFL. This is the liquidated damaged portion of the LCFL contract if currently used or in the alternative and agreed penalty to any team not currently under the standard LCFL agreements.
  - b. Not compete in any other league or manner during the remaining term of the LCFL contract period unless given written permission by the LCFL. Said permission must be voted on by the LCFL membership. A simply majority of a quorum shall be successful.
  - c. Remove any and all LCFL references from the team its website, press releases, literature and any other team materials should it continue to operate in any capacity. This shall include the LCFL patches on the Jerseys. These Patches may only be worn by current LCFL members in contests.
  - d. Failure to abide by any of the above shall be punishable by a \$3000.00 liquidated and agreed damages clause in the standard LCFL contract and incorporated into all LCFL membership agreements by inclusion herein. Such a claim shall be pursued by the LCFL in small claims by an LCFL representative.

### **BYLAW 3: GOVERNING BODY**

#### **A. The LCFL West will be governed by the League Members.**

Membership shall be defined as above and all members shall have the right to participate in governance of the LCFL WEST. Governance shall be conducted by general meetings of all LCFL members and by the bi-annual election of a governing board for organization, implementation and direction of the LCFL. This board shall be called the E-board. Additionally, the LCFL shall grant consulting and Veto power to the LCFL National Director. Who is hired by the E-board and contracted on an annual basis to assist and guide the LCFL West.

#### **B. E-BOARD:**

##### **1. Positions:**

The E-board shall consist of the Commissioner, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms.

- **Commissioner:** This position has no authority over the LCFL other than:
  - To Veto votes by members.
  - This position acts as a consultant and liaison of the LCFL WEST to the LCFL and to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. As such can make agreements with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties subject to override by the LCFL general membership
  - Make Motions to the LCFL West.
  - E-Board Vote
- **President:** The president shall preside over all LCFL meetings and shall be its top executive. The President shall also be There are several implied powers as president to make executive decisions, however, specific powers include:
  - The power to create and assign committees
  - The power to call emergency meetings
  - The power to Veto a League Vote
  - The power to contract on behalf of the league with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, unless specifically overruled by league vote or denied authority by league vote
  - The power to waive fines less than \$100.00 – “pardon authority”
  - Power to call E-Board Meetings
  - E-Board Vote
- **Vice President:** The Vice President shall act as President in the president’s absence from official LCFL meetings and functions. They shall have all the same powers during that limited event of the President’s absence. The Vice President should be included on all E-Board meetings and has a vote within the E-Board. Inherent powers of the Vice President:
  - The power to break a League tie Vote
  - In the absence of the president the Vice President assumes the role of President.
  - E-Board Vote
- **Secretary:** The secretary shall be the record keeper for the LCFL and assist the E-Board. Specific duties and powers of the Secretary:
  - Prepare the agenda for each general and E-board meeting.
  - Document the meeting results by keeping minutes.
  - E-board Vote
  - Maintenance of LCFL records.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the league and be responsible for the accounts payable and receivable of the league. Their duties and powers shall include:
  - The power to pay all properly payable bills on behalf of the LCFL
  - To collect and deposit all monies received by the LCFL
  - To document in the form of a ledger or otherwise standard accounting method the monthly expenditures and receivables of the LCFL.
  - To present the current status of the finances of the LCFL to the membership on a monthly basis by dissemination to the members in either paper or e-mail form.
  - To prepare an annual budget under the direction of the League by the February Meeting.
  - E-board Vote.

- **Sergeant at Arms:** The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for maintaining the pace and the order during meetings. They must have a stop watch at meetings and have the following responsibilities and duties:
  - Calling of all membership and E-board meetings to order
  - Timing of individual members who have the floor.
  - Calling time for speakers and calling on the next member to speak.
  - Maintaining order in the meeting specifically by a warning and then by “Call to fine” which is noted for the final agenda item of any meeting. This “call to fine” shall require the Sergeant at Arms to name each team that is to be fined, the amount of the fine and then put it to immediate vote.

## **2. ELECTION:**

These positions are elected at the February Monthly general meeting. Any member may be nominated for these positions and upon a seconding of the nomination; their name shall be put upon a ballot. No more than four members may be nominated for a position and no member shall be nominated for more than two positions. The order of Members placed upon the ballot shall be first come first served. Should a member received less than 50% of the vote a run off shall be had for that position between the top two vote getters. If a member is elected to two positions, they shall immediately resign one position and that position shall be open to a new election process.

## **3. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE:**

As now officer and individual is perfect and issues with regard to leadership and office responsibilities are inevitable, the manner in which an officer may be removed prior to the end of their official term are as follows:

1. Voluntary Resignation – The officer Resigns in written form to the President or if the President is Resigning, to the Commissioner. The President shall nominate a successor who will then be confirmed by the membership by simple majority of a Quorum. If no such confirmation can be had, then the President shall make another nomination and continue this process until the position is filled. If the President Resigns, the Vice President shall be automatically be elevated to the office of President and shall in turn nominate a successor to the office of Vice President in the same manner as the President’s nomination of any other office that is vacated requiring a confirmation of simple majority of a Quorum.
2. Member team is given Death Penalty, folds or ceases to remain in the LCFL for any other reason. If an officer is an owner of a Team member no longer a member of the LCFL, then they shall be deemed to have resigned automatically and the process for resignation replacement shall be followed.
3. If an Officer is accused of wrongdoing. – A member team may at any time make a motion accusing an officer of wrongdoing. This motion must be in writing and cite the specific instances of wrongdoing and identify the facts and evidence to support said wrongdoing. This motion shall identify the bylaws that have been violated and the writing shall be published to the general membership at the time it is made. This motion need not be submitted as a new business item, but instead may be made during the “motions” portion of the agenda. Once the entire membership has been given

a copy of the written motion, an additional member must second the motion. If the motion is not seconded it shall fail automatically. If it is seconded, then there shall be a committee formed by the President of three non-accused officers and three general members. Additionally, unless the National Director is also accused of wrongdoing he shall be appointed to head the committee. If the President is the subject matter of the wrongdoing, then the commissioner shall establish the committee. If neither the Commissioner nor the President is entitled to establish the committee, a member team may be nominated from the floor to establish the committee. A simple majority of a quorum shall suffice to grant such authority. Once the committee is chosen, they shall be tasked with meeting within the next week, in whatever means are possible by phone, e-mail or otherwise and shall be charged with dissemination of a written recommendation of one of the following responses to the allegation:

- a. Censure – a voted upon public rebuking of the officer’s conduct and fine associated with the officer’s team not to exceed \$250.00.
- b. Impeachment – The member officer shall be immediately removed and the President shall fill the vacancy as though the member resigned. Unless, the President is Impeached, and then the process of shall go on as though the President resigned.
- c. Impeachment and Fine – The member officer shall be immediately removed and the President shall fill the vacancy as though the member resigned. Unless, the President is Impeached, and then the process of shall go on as though the President resigned. This also shall carry a fine to the officer’s team of no more than \$250.00
- d. Impeachment and Death penalty – if the actions or wrongdoing are so egregious and hurtful to the league, the committee shall have the right to recommend impeachment and expulsion of the officer’s team. Each matter shall be handled separately with Impeachment to be resolved immediately and Death Penalty proceedings to be managed as though a Death Penalty motion had been made subsequent to the new officers’ placement in the E-Board.
- e. Finding of no wrongdoing
- f. Any of the above recommendations of action may be overridden by a motion from the floor calling for option “a”, “b”, “c”, “d” or “e”. a supermajority vote shall be necessary to override the committee’s suggestion.

### **C. CONDUCTING BUSINESS:**

- a. All LCFL business shall be conducted pursuant to these bylaws.
- b. All LCFL business shall be conducted by general meeting unless otherwise authorized within these bylaws.
- c. The monthly meeting shall be determined on a monthly basis at the existing meeting and the location of the meeting place shall be reasonable in proximity to all members. Teams located more than 120

Miles from the meeting place *shall have the right* to name a proxy if they are unable to participate via conference phone.

- d. All LCFL general meetings shall be conducted according to the agenda set for that meeting. The agenda shall always be in the following format and guided by the named Officer of the E-board:
  - a. Call to Order – *Sergeant at Arms*
  - b. *THE PRESIDENT OR NEXT RANKING OFFICER THEN TAKES CHARGE OF THE MEETING ACCORDING TO ROBERT'S RULES*
  - c. Roll Call Sign-in to determine quorum status – A Quorum in the LCFL is the Majority of members present. If there is an even number of members 21 for example than the number members than the presence of the Vice President shall be sufficient to create a quorum. For example: if there are 20 members and only 10 are present at the meeting, but the Vice President is present, then a Quorum is present. A Super majority to override an official Veto on a matter shall always be 60% of members regardless of attendance. The meeting may be started without a quorum, but if additional members arrive during the meeting to create a quorum, then votes may be taken.
  - d. REFEREE REPORTS – any presentation from REFEREE'S REPRESENTATIVES
  - e. OLD BUSINESS: Any matter tabled for the next meeting is automatically placed at the beginning of the agenda for discussion and/or vote.
  - f. FINANCIAL REPORT – Treasurer hands out current budget and financial reports as determined by the president and answers questions from the members regarding the budget. No spending matters or other votes take place during the report.
  - g. NEW BUSINESS – Any items that have been placed on the agenda by member teams submitting them to the secretary in e-mail or other written form for discussion/voting a minimum of one week prior to the meeting.
  - h. MOTIONS – Any issue that a member team would like to bring up and make a motion for action, presidential committee creation or other miscellaneous motions. The President may at that time of the Motion determine whether the motion must be made in writing and put on the NEW BUSINESS portion of the next months agenda, or if there is sufficient information and need for the matter to be voted on by the membership at the present meeting. Should the President determine that a Committee needs to be assigned to review or advise the membership on the matter before further action can be taken, They shall be chosen from volunteers or selected as the president determines. Only by motion from the floor seconded and passed by super majority can the President's choice of action be overruled and an immediate vote taken.
  - i. PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Any existing committees that have been formed for purpose shall make their monthly reports/recommendations/findings and all proper matters for voting shall take place.

- j. FINES – All E-Board recommendations reviewed and voted upon, the Sergeant at Arms presents for quick vote the \$5.00 fines for time violations.
  - k. CLOSE OF BUSINESS - Motion from floor to close meeting – Vote, Sergeant at Arms announces the next meeting.
- e. The Sergeant at Arms shall conduct the timing and order of speakers at the meeting at ALL TIMES. The sergeant shall have a stop watch and shall allow each member a total of 3 minutes to speak on any singular subject matter. The sergeant shall note by first come first serve the order of members interested in speaking. The Sergeant shall call the member who shall have the ability to speak uninterrupted until the sergeant tells them time. If they continue past 15 seconds the sergeant shall all time again and shall note the name of the member for Fine assessment. If a member has a time remaining when they are finished, they may say they may either reserve the time for themselves for potential rebuttal, forgo the time (Not use it), or grant their remaining time to another member team. No member team shall go beyond the Sergeants second call to release the floor. The Sergeant shall note any reserved or granted times accordingly. The Secretary may assist in this duty. If a member team has no remaining time to speak, they make one request of the president OR Commissioner for an additional two minutes. They may only request this of one of the officers and they must abide by the officer’s decision. If a member seeks more than five minutes the full membership must immediately vote to allow unlimited time. In which case a simply majority shall rule. If however, the member sits or ceases to speak for a minute upon being granted said time, there time shall elapse. (filibuster).
- f. All LCFL Members shall attend regular monthly meetings unless they give notice a minimum of 7 days advance of their inability to attend. Additionally, teams are encouraged to utilize a proxy if they are no able to attend. Proxies shall be written and shall be in the possession of the proxy at the time of the meeting. No proxy shall last more than one meeting.
- a. The E-Board can call a special meeting of the general membership that is in addition to the regular monthly meeting. This membership must be given notice a minimum of 7 calendar days in advance of the meeting. If a member team is unable to make a “special” meeting, they shall not be subject to fine. All Quorum and supermajority rules apply to “special” meetings. **Special meetings may be called only when business is deemed so urgent by the E-Board that it cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting**
- g. The E-Board may meet regularly to deal with non-voting issues and to determine agenda items for the Regular meeting. Additionally, inherent in the E-Board’s authority and duty are the following:
  - a. Determination of general contracting duties within the parameters set by league votes for matters such as playoff games, all star games, promotional events, and any other necessary and reasonable authority to execute league voted matters.
  - b. Determination of fines to be voted on for violations of League Bylaws. This is in addition to motions by member teams and the

sergeant at Arms noting procedural violations during league meetings. The E-Board may gather information from any source, including fans, referees, member teams, players, other E-Board Members, or themselves. They shall note the Violation, the involved member team and the proposed fine. The E-Board shall then determine the course of action which can be:

- i. No action – Which allows the subject to be raised by the E-board member or another at the general meeting
  - ii. Purpose a penalty to be voted upon on the agenda.
  - iii. Creation of a three person member committee to purpose a course of action to the E-board.
- h. The E-Board shall have other authority to act as granted or implied by the bylaws and the league memberships voting on authority. If at any time a member believes the authority of the E-Board to conduct business is outside the authority specifically granted it, they may make a motion in the MOTION portion of the general meeting to have the authority revised in a manner suggested in the motion. This shall be passed by simply majority of a Quorum.
- i. No League Officer, team, team official, or player may obligate the League in any manner what so ever, nor shall they alter any part of the bylaws or anything else mandated by the members without approval of the governing body.
- j. League meetings are limited to one spokesperson per team, at the table. Others may be in attendance, but seated elsewhere, depending upon space availability. There should be no more than (2) representatives per team at each meeting. Any additionally members of the ownership of a team may be asked to leave as the space for meetings is limited.
- k. Each team spokesperson has one vote regarding all League Business. The representative signed in on the day's roll will be recognized as the voter. This will include all motions, etc. Any member who is absent with or without notice shall not have a vote if they are not present when votes are taken.
- l. Bylaws shall be amendable between January and May of each season. A simple majority vote of the governing body present at the meetings will be necessary to pass amendments, deletions, or additions to the existing bylaws and/or policies. No changed will be made during the season unless made by Super majority as such changes would be deemed an emergency. NOTE: No bylaw effecting competitiveness shall be made during this season which would result in altering a team's record.
- m.

#### **D. RULES AND FINES:**

- a. All fines are payable to the LCFL West. All fees, fines, dues, etc., are payable by cash, money orders, or cashier's check.

- b. Any fines and penalties can have exceptions made by a simply majority vote on an immediate appeal. Additionally, alternatives to fines and or penalties may be made by any member team with the requirement of a simple majority vote. The Veto power remains in effect for this provision. This provision is **NOT** available for death penalty proceedings.
- c. All members will create and maintain a team website. Each website will be updated (A) weekly (B) Bi-weekly (C) Monthly. Failure to update the website is subject to a \$100 fine per week that the website is NOT updated. No member will post negative information about another member on their website, message board, or guestbook. If such information is discovered and determined to be offensive, a \$100 fine will be imposed.
- d. Each team will establish and maintain liability insurance. Insurance will cover the necessary liabilities of each team at their game and practice fields. A copy of each teams Policy is to be on file with the secretary of the League. No LCFL Team may operate a game if they are not insured. To do so could cause the death penalty and/or a \$250.00 fine.
- e. No member may own or operate any other team in or outside of the LCFL. No member may operate or attend any other league meetings other than the LCFL. To do so may result in the Death Penalty and/or a \$250.00 fine.
- f. League meetings are limited to one spokesperson per team, at the table. Others may be in attendance, but seated elsewhere, depending upon space availability. There should only be (2) representatives per team at each meeting.
- g. Failures to play a scheduled league game, missed meetings, late to meetings, carry fines to be determined by the Executive Board and submitted to the membership for approval at the end of each monthly meeting.
- h. Payment for the referee fees will be the responsibility of the home team. Failure to pay referee fees shall result in a \$100.00 league fine.
- i. No team shall participate in LCFL playoff or Championship games with any outstanding financial obligations to the LCFL.
- j. No team with debts outstanding to the LCFL may vote at LCFL meetings, until all are paid in full.
- k. All fines must be paid in full before next meeting.
- n. Player and Team misconduct fines are at the discretion of the Board to present to the membership for voting. Once voted on they are final.
- o. **ALL** LCFL teams shall utilize a standard player contract/liability waiver. Exhibit "C" Copies of each player contract must be given to the League secretary prior to the player's participation in a Regular season game. Failure to have a contract with the player shall result in a \$100.00 fine against the team and possible suspension of the player for up to two games. Continued

violation of this penalty could result in a \$200.00 fine and/or consideration of the death penalty for a team if circumstances are such that their failures to contract players to the LCFL conduct and liability waivers presents a danger to the league and other members.

- p. “Off the field violence” – shall be punished. If a Member team’s personal is involved in off the field violence of any kind, there shall at a minimum be a \$250.00 fine. If any of the violence or a violent threat is made by a member to an official, law enforcement officer, or other LCFL member owner or official, there need only be a threat to allow the E-board to recommend the death penalty. Should there be such a threat and the E-board does not recommend the death penalty proceedings, the fine shall be a minimum of \$300.00 if found to have merit.
- q. Any team that forfeits a game shall be assessed a \$1000.00 penalty. Additionally, the forfeiting team shall automatically indemnify the non forfeiting team’s losses incurred upon presentation of receipts and formal request by the said team at the next scheduled meeting. Any disagreements in the requested damages will be debated and determined by the E-Board. The E-Board shall have final say regarding damages above and beyond the \$1000.00 fine. Additionally, if facts and circumstances merit, forfeiture shall potentially expose the forfeiting team to the death penalty as outlined herein.
- r. Option (A) Missing a league meeting shall be \$100.00, unless excused by the E-Board or the membership at large in a vote. Option (B) THERE IS AN OPTION TO INCREASE THE FINE TO \$250.00 that has been presented.
- s. Members Late to meetings shall carry a \$25.00 fine unless a call has been made to an E-Board member prior to the meeting commencing. This fine can also be requested as waived at the Meeting.
- t. The E-board shall have discretion over general fines and Player and Team misconduct not otherwise defined within these bylaws. These fines are at the discretion of the Board. They may only be appealed by a motion made to the general membership. Any fine of a player must be paid prior to that player’s eligibility to play in the next scheduled game.
- u. Any team at kickoff time with less than (23) rosters, uniformed players will forfeit at the discretion of the opposing team’s Owner.
- v. No team may dress more than the full roster limit of 53 players. Violation of this is a \$100.00 fine.
- w. No player or coach may visit other team’s practice, without prior permission. This is a \$50.00 Fine.
- x. If a team causes damage to another team’s facility then in addition to any reimbursement for the damages caused upon presentment of receipt, the E-board may review fact and circumstances and asses a \$50 to \$100.00 fine.

#### **E. DEATH PENALTY PENALTIES**

The Death Penalties for Member teams are of such a nature and seriousness that a simple fine is believed to be insufficient to deter the actions. The LCFL has a tremendous amount to lose should any member team participate in actions listed within this section. All of following penalties shall be considered grounds for expulsion from the LCFL. There are two ways that a Death Penalty proceeding can initiate against a team. The Manner provided in Section B(5) or by recommendation of the E-board as part of investigation of wrongdoing presented to them for evaluation. In either case:

- A. If a Member Team pays players to play in any contest other than reimbursement of gas money, normal equipment granting or other reasonable expenses. This penalty is specifically for monies paid to a player.
- B. If a member Team plays at a location without liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000.00. If a team does so knowingly, this shall merit the Death penalty. Mitigation circumstances may be reviewed, but under no circumstances shall this action be left unpunished if found to have occurred.
- C. If a Team is involved in violence **including usage OR threatened usage of a weapon** during ANY LCFL function, including but not limited to games, practices, meetings, parties, banquets, charitable events or other League sanctioned occurrences. The LCFL has a zero tolerance of violence and all such allegations shall be reviewed fully and the recommendation of the E-Board shall determine the level of penalty. However, no occurrence where off the field violence – with or without a weapon shall go unpunished. If a Member team’s personal is involved in off the field violence of any kind, there shall at a minimum be a \$250.00 fine. If any of the violence or a violent threat is made by a member to an official, law enforcement officer, or other LCFL member owner or official, there need only be a threat to allow the E-board to recommend the death penalty. Should there be such a threat
- D. If a team forfeits a more than one game in a season, causes damages to the other team exceeding \$1,500.00 regardless of repayment, fails to notify the other team prior to game day or other facts which may be presented which hold the LCFL in a bad light may be grounds for death penalty proceedings.
- E. Any action by a team that is determined to harm or injure the reputation of the LCFL in such a way as to harm or damage the league, Ms. Patty Labelle, or another team within the league as fact and circumstances may dictate. This type of infraction shall be reviewed by the E-board and options presented to the membership for vote.

## **F. FUNDS**

Funding sources of the LCFL West are as follows:

- A. Annual Association membership fees of \$1,000
- B. New Team Franchise fee of \$3000.00
- C. Revenue from League sponsored events
- D. Sponsorship for outside sources.
- E. Licensed merchandise and products.

The Treasurer will administer and distribute all of the Association funds. The Treasurer will prepare a monthly report of finances.

#### **G. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- A. Membership Fees are to be determined by the governing body at the January meeting. The Fee shall remain unchanged unless a motion is made and passed by the general membership. Simply majority shall suffice.
- B. All regular Membership fees are to be paid by the June Meeting.
- C. New Team Franchise Fees – Half is paid by the February meeting and half to be paid by the June meeting.
- D. Payment for the referee fees will be the responsibility of the home team.
- E. All fees, fines, dues, etc., are payable by cash, money orders, or cashier's check made to the LCFL. Teams are responsible for their own receipt collection.

#### **H. PLAYER RULES**

- A. All LCFL players must sign the league general agreement with the team they choose to play for. A copy of this agreement is attached as Exhibit "C". All LCFL teams must utilize this standard contract and have an executed copy available for league inspection if requested by an E-board member.
- B. No team shall make an agreement with a player for more than one calendar year.
- C. Player's, by their player agreement inherently agree to follow all LCFL rules, policy and determinations. Specifically Players agree to the following parameters in order to be eligible to play in the LCFL for any team:
- D. To pay any misconduct fines assessed by the E-Board prior to participation in a game.
- E. A Player SHALL NOT threaten violence against another individual while involved in an LCFL event. Failure to abide by this rule shall be result in review by the E-board and may result in a fine and/or suspension from eligibility or a permanent ban from the LCFL. Any such penalty shall be voted on by the general membership and a simple majority shall suffice. This excludes non-abusive communication during the course of on field play. It specifically INCLUDES the following:
  - a. Threats of violence after a football contest to any other individual
  - b. Threats involving a weapon
  - c. Threats to members of a family of another individual
  - d. ANY threat of any nature to an official. If a player physically threatens an official and it is proven to have occurred, the LCFL shall defer to the Referee as to his wish of penalty.
  - e. If any weapon is found on the person of an LCFL player or in his control he shall be banned for life from the LCFL.
- F. No Player can play in (2) different leagues in the same calendar season. Failure to abide can result in suspension and/or fine of that player.

- G. Players may not refer to gang affiliations while attending an LCFL event. Failure to abide may result in suspension and/or fine of that player.
- H. Players who are charged with Felonies by any law enforcement agency may be subject to suspensions until the matter is resolved. Should the player be convicted of a violent felony, the E-Board shall automatically suspend the player for two years and shall refer the matter to the general membership for a lifetime ban.
- I. Players shall not receive money for their play. Any player discovered to have received payment shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- J. No player movement between teams is allowed after the player signs the Standard Agreement with the team. The exception to this rule is as follows:
  - Players may make only one roster change during the season under the following conditions:
    - I. Released (cut) from team.
    - II. Team ceases operation. Player is free to play for whomever they want subject to the closed roster rule
- K. There will be no player released from its contract to play with another member team after week one of the LCFL West season. This rule may only be overridden by motion to the general membership and a majority vote to make an exception based on unique circumstances.
- L. Teams shall be responsible for collection of team fees and equipment. The LCFL shall not be involved in internal financial matters of a team.
- M. LCFL player contracts may not preclude the players' movement to a major league or college program.
- N. A player must be 18 years of age to play in the LCFL. A team can sign a player who will turn 18 by October February 1<sup>st</sup>. No LCFL player shall take the field of a contest or practice if they are under 18. This could result in a fine of \$100.00

## **I SCHEDULEING POLICIES**

- A. Members may schedule their own exhibition league games. However, at no time shall an LCFL team play a non-LCFL team without the full league voting approval any such request must be made at a regular meeting a full month in advance of any proposed contest.
- B. Outside "charity" games may be played in the off- season. All LCFL Rules and guidelines shall apply.
- C. The official start of the LCFL West season will commence February 1<sup>st</sup> and continue to the following February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- D. The start of the following season's regular League play will be determined every January by the E-board.
- E. Each team must inform the LCFL of their game and practice field addresses, along the days, dates, and times of home games, team colors, and any special circumstances by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Consideration will be made for teams dealing with difficult third parties, but at no time shall a team fail to inform the league and/or opposing team of field difficulties or the need to move a location when known.
- F. Day and time of home games is determined by the home team, and must fall within LCFL guidelines. All Saturday games must begin no **earlier** than 2:00 PM.

- G. Any changes in game times and places will require the home team to notify the League President and opposing team no later than Wednesday of the affected week.

## **J. PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. The governing body will determine the playoff format at the time of scheduling, based upon the number of teams in the LCFL each year.
- B. The Championship game will be held at a neutral site to be determined by the League **Members**. If a neutral site is not feasible, then the team with the best record shall have the option of hosting the contest. Failing this site the E-board shall locate a site from another LCFL member using location, quality of facility and other factors to the best of its ability.
- C. Expenses for all playoff officials will be paid by the League (unless covered by sponsorship).
- D. 50% of the proceeds from the LCFL West Championship game will go to the LCFL West while 25% will go to each participating teams rounding out the 100%
- E. All-star or All-league selection will be determined by the LCFL West according to format decided at a later date.
- F. In the event of a tie between teams at the end of regular season play, a tie breaker format will be used to determine the playoff spots.
  - a. **First tie breaker is division record.**
  - b. **Second tie breaker shall be head to head games between teams that are tied.**
  - c. **Third tie breaker shall be the total of net differential of points scored for and points scored against common league opponents.**
  - d. **Fourth tie breaker shall be a coin toss.**

## **K. TEAM TRAVEL EXPENSES**

- A. Each team must bear its own expenses for travel, transportation, lodging and Meals.
- B. Any damages caused by a team will be subject to League policy.
- C. A home team required to reimburse a game facility, hotel, bus, etc., for damages caused by an opposing team, the home team will be compensated by the transgressor, sums totaling all of the damages.
- D. Team owners and coaches bear the responsibility for the conduct of their team, and will be held accountable for that action.

## **L. ROSTER LIMITS**

Each team is allowed to carry a 53 man roster. Each team may have up to 6 “Alternates”, however, under no circumstances is a team to field more than 53 players at any LCFL contest.

- A. No player movement can happen after week three (3) of the current season.

- B. Each team must submit **an initial** 53 man roster at the July meeting
- C. A final roster should be submitted to the league secretary **on the Monday following** Week **five** of play.
- D. No player can be added to rosters after the **5<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled game**. Any team using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game and/or season as determined by the LCFL members.
- E. A player must play in at least ONE regular season game in order to be active for playoff participation.
- F. Playoff roster limits (53) spaces, same as the regular season.

#### **M. REFEREES**

- A. The LCFL shall negotiate with Referee organizations as a collective in bargaining for referee fees and other charges for referee services.
- B. The membership shall vote on any agreement and authorize the E-board to act at its representative to the Referee organization
- C. Regardless of any other agreements, payment of officials is the responsibility of the home teams and will be paid to the Head referee who will in turn disburse funds to the crew.
- D. Any disputes between the Referee's and the LCFL or LCFL member teams will be first reviewed by the E-board who shall then make recommendations to the general membership for voting or other actions.

#### **N. FIELD RULES**

- A. The Association will follow all fields of play rules as established by the NFL **and/or rules as modified by the LCFL West**.
- B. Offensive signs and spectator behavior will fall under the purview of the head official, (to be rectified in a timely manner) or the game can be called and awarded to the offended team.
- C. The field of play must meet all requirements and standards as described by the NFL.
- D. Teams may use radio/TV broadcasting, kicker's nets, etc., in any game.
- E. A LCFL football will be the official ball of the LCFL. The ball has to be approved by the Head Official before each game.

#### **O. PLAYER AND TEAM CONDUCT DURING PLAY**

- A. Ejected players **and coaches** must leave the field, and are subject to an automatic LCFL fine of \$50, which must be paid before the player **or coach** participates in his next game. This fine can be paid by the said player/**coach or** the organization he represents. **The organization they represent is under no obligation to pay their fines however, the organization will be fined if they ignore the eligibility status of a player/and/or coach.**
- B. Players **or coaches** ejected for fighting will be suspended for one game. The appeal Process is through the Head of Officials and Executive Board.
- C. Referees will notify the Commissioner of player **or coach** ejection.
- D. Visiting teams will be responsible for cleanup of their sidelines and locker rooms. Fines will be initiated for costs of cleanup and/or repairs as determined by the E-board.
- E. No alcohol, controlled substances, or weapons will be allowed at any LCFL game site, (local schools and colleges), at any time, unless the facility permits the use of

same. Violation of this policy could result in fines and/or death penalty depending on the severity of the infraction. The E-board shall be in charge of the procedure of investigation of these matters.

## **P. UNIFORMS**

- A. All team uniforms will conform to LCFL standards and requirements No LCFL team will allow players to play or make appearances at a game under the following guidelines.
- a. No torn uniforms.
  - b. No tape on uniforms.
  - c. No “non-regulation” uniforms.
  - d. Unsafe equipment, i.e.: cracked or split shoulder pads, helmet, or facemasks.
  - e. Only one white towel on the field (per team) [QB] or center.
  - f. No streamers, belts, or other material hanging from uniform, or helmet.
  - g. Each team will have players fully dressed, with identical jerseys, (full length, tucked in), pants, helmets, and full-length knee socks.
  - h. All facemasks, helmets, stockings, belts, pants, decals/stripes, shall be identical (NO PAINTED FACE MASKS).
  - i. Players will wear all MANDATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.
    - i. Helmet
    - ii. Shoulder pads
  - j. Knees of all players must be completely covered by the pants.  
Elbow-type pads are permissible to be used as knee pads if the player desires
- B. Referees will check all players before game time. Any player in non compliance will not be allowed to play until infraction/s is corrected. If player enters the game (uncorrected), he faces penalty then ejection.
- C. No team can change colors/logo during the season without league approval.
- D. Players may not share or switch uniforms. This subjects the offending team to forfeiture. All players must wear the # jersey given to them on the final roster. **Any number changes must be sent to the league Commissioner and Secretary. So if a jersey is destroyed beyond repair it may be necessary to change numbers.**
- E. All players must wear full length game socks to the knees. All players should be in same color.
- a. Uniform infractions must be reported to the referee. Any other proof of uniform violations can be submitted to the league or its representative, I.E. pictures or video.
- F. Violations of the above may subject the infringing team to the above penalties and also to fines of up to \$25 plus repair costs for damage to opponent’s equipment if applicable. Repeated offenses may result in double fines and or death penalty proceedings.

## **Q. APPEALS**

Anyone wishing to file an appeal regarding disciplinary actions taken against them, must notify the President and Secretary of the league and have it put on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting. In the event the President deems it urgent, a written appeal may be sent VIA e-mail to all members and a vote on resolution can be sent by members back to the president and secretary. A simple majority vote of all members will decide the resolution.

## **R. ALL STAR SELECTION**

- A. All league players will be selected by the governing body and the recommendations of coaches. The final roster shall be determined by the head coach of each of the all star teams. A minimum of 2 players must come from each member team.
- B. The governing body will determine the format to be utilized in the selection of players for the all-star game.
- C. All-star games must not interfere with any LCFL team's right/responsibility to Actively compete in the LCFL playoffs and Championship.
- D. League awards will be determined by a vote of the governing body.

## **S. LCFL PROTECTION CLAUSE:**

- A. Any new team that is formed in a current LCFL members area (area is a 20 mile radius of teams home town) can not become a member of the LCFL without the expressed written approval of the areas existing home team.
- B. Any new team admitted to the league or existing member, can never recruit a coach or player that is under contract with another member team, without expressed written consent from the team owner. It is the Receiving team's responsibility to insure that a player has been released by a member team. A cap of 5 previous year's players can move from any single existing member teams, to any new team. (Note: Basically, the intent of this bylaw is to not "Water Down" existing member teams and to allow some flexibility in admitting a new qualified team to the league that is in the proximity of existing member teams area. However, if new team is admitted in an area that would be more convenient for a player and by changing teams may reduce a hardship on a player such as driving distance, hopefully a release from a team for a player or coach would not be unreasonably withheld). Any disputes regarding this provision shall be first reviewed by the E-board for settlement, and barring that a motion made be made to resolve to the general membership.

**T. GAMES NOT PLAYED WHEN NEITHER TEAM IS CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE BY AN ACT OF GOD:**

- A. Every effort should be made to complete all games. If need be the scheduled home team should try to arrange with the scheduled visiting team to reverse sites, such as, home team travel to visiting teams site. If this cannot be arranged then the game will be considered a no contest. In the event this creates a tie or a discrepancy, between teams at the end of the season, then it will go to the head to head game played with the two teams. If there was no game played then it will be decided by point differential of points scored for and points scored against the teams in question.
- B. Members shall vote to determine a resolution if it was an act of God and there was no alternatives for the home team or if there was enough time to move the game. Not notifying refs of changes is not a valid reason.