



EMPIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES

REVISED 01/26/20

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. - The name of the organization shall be the Empire Football League (EFL)

Section 2. - The names of the Divisions shall be determined by the Administrative Council at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The Empire Football League is formed for the following purposes:

- o To provide a football league that fosters and facilitates amateur tackle training and competitions regionally, nationally, and internationally
- o To support the growth of amateur football regionally, nationally, and internationally
- o To organize, coordinate, and support football games with other regional, national, and international; football teams and leagues
- o To train, educate, and promote football players who desire to play on regional, national, and international football teams
- o To publish information which discusses subjects described in (a) through (d) above
- o To solicit, receive, maintain, invest, and reinvest funds of real and personal property and to contribute its income and principal as deemed advisable for the purposes provided in (a) through (e) above.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. - The Empire Football League shall consist of all current member teams meeting admission requirements, teams that are in good standing and teams that have paid the league fees due at the Annual Meeting, unless otherwise approved by the Judiciary Committee.

Section 2. - Each member team in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 3. - A team shall be considered not in good standing if it has forfeited a game or if, in the judgment of the Judiciary Committee, it has acted in willful violation of the Empire Football League By Laws or Standing Rules. A forfeited game is defined as a game played, not played or not completed because:

- One of the teams failed to show up
- The home team changed the game time, day or location without proper notification as outlined in the EFL By-Laws per Conduct and Regulation of Team Unit, Section 9
- The game was called by the EFL Referee Official
- One of the teams used an ineligible player. An ineligible player is defined as a ~~player who is paid to play~~, a player without a release from his former team and who has left an EFL team, joined and played in a game in another league in the same season.

- Players may not leave ~~an~~ the EFL ~~team~~ during the season to play for any other-~~team~~ league and then return to the EFL ~~original league team~~ within the same season. Said player would be considered illegal upon return to the EFL ~~original team~~. (revised 1/24/15) (1/30/16)

Section 4. - All new teams are on a one-year probationary period with voting rights, with exception of By Laws issues. Probationary status will be reviewed at the EFL Annual Meeting. A team needs 75% vote to pass from probationary status to good standing.
Section 5. - A team on a year's leave of absence will pay the league dues and will attend at least 2 meetings, one of which will be the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. - The Empire Football League officers shall consist of a Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. - The EFL Officers shall hold office for a one (1) year term or until successors are named.

ARTICLE V - ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. - The Administrative Committee of the EFL shall consist of the EFL Officers and one team representative from each EFL member team in good standing. This Administrative Committee shall determine all policies in effect. It shall elect all officers and fill all vacancies created by death, resignation or incapacity. It shall select delegates from the EFL to attend the meetings of any affiliated body and shall adopt standards governing the operation of EFL games and the rules that shall govern those games. The meetings of the Administrative Committee shall be called by the EFL Secretary at the direction of the EFL Commissioner.

ARTICLE VI - JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Section 1. - The Judiciary Committee shall consist of all EFL Officers not affiliated with any team and shall be a minimum of 3 members. If the Judiciary Committee falls below the membership minimum of 3, then the committee's power shall revert back to the EFL Commissioner.

Section 2. - The members of the Judiciary Committee shall hold office for a one (1) year term or until successors are named.

Section 3. - It shall be the duty of the Judiciary Committee to settle grievances between teams and to rule on any disciplinary action to be administered as per the current By-Laws. Grieving teams may present such facts or arguments that they deem proper, subject to the control of the Judiciary Committee who will conduct the hearing. They will answer all questions put to them by the other members of the Judiciary Committee, after which they will retire to another room to allow discussion and judgment by the Judiciary Committee. The officer conducting the hearing will cast a vote in the event of a tie. The majority vote will dictate the judgment.

Section 4. - In the event of an emergency situation, the Judiciary Committee may act upon the grievance prior to the receipt of written copy of said grievance.

Section 5. - All EFL grievances must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours, by phone, to the EFL Commissioner for action by the Judiciary Committee. A written copy of the grievance must be filed with the EFL Commissioner within one week (7 days) from the time of the alleged infraction.

Section 6. - The Judiciary Committee may elect to conduct hearings in person or by conference call.

Section 7. - Any Judiciary Committee decision will be immediately released to the EFL membership.

Section 8. - Any grievance decision by the Judiciary Committee may be appealed to the Administrative Committee. If the Judiciary Committee's decision is upheld by the Administrative Committee, then the grieving team will be charged a \$50 fee.

ARTICLE VII - ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section 1. - Meetings shall be called by the EFL Commissioner or at the request of the majority of the EFL membership.

Section 2. - Meeting attendance shall be required by at least one (1) of two (2) representatives designated in writing to the EFL Secretary. They shall be the only persons from that team to be recognized by the EFL Commissioner to correspond with the EFL. Meeting attendance to be defined as attending and staying for the entire length of the league meeting. Leaving early must be approved by the Commissioner. Any team that is one (1) hour late will be considered absent, pending review of the circumstances by the Commissioner.

Section 3. - The first meeting in the calendar year shall be known as the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. - The EFL shall have at least two (2) other meetings in addition to the Annual Meeting. One of the meetings will be the Sunday before the start of the EFL opening game and the other will be the Sunday after the final EFL regular scheduled league game.

ARTICLE VIII - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. - The presence of the majority of the EFL team representatives shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of EFL business.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Section 1. - These By-Laws may be amended at the EFL Annual Meeting by two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present in good standing, provided that written or verbal notice of the proposed change or amendment has been given to the EFL Commissioner no later than January 1.

Section 2. - The first meeting in the calendar year shall be known as the Annual Meeting. The agenda for this meeting shall contain, as a minimum, the following items:

- Reports/Minutes
- Review of League Statistics
- Election of Officers
- Admission of New Teams
- By Laws
- Scheduling

STANDING RULES

DUTIES OF EFL PERSONNEL:

- It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to:
 - Preside over all EFL meetings
 - Have general supervision over the affairs of the EFL
 - Handle all necessary EFL correspondence

- It shall be the duty of the Deputy Commissioners to:
 - Assume the duties of the Commissioner in his absence, incapacity or resignation
 - Assist the Commissioner in whatever capacity the Commissioner deems necessary
- It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
 - Keep accurate records of all EFL meetings
 - Notify all EFL members of meetings at least two (2) weeks in advance of such meetings
 - Circulate copies of the minutes of each meeting within two (2) weeks of the last meeting
- It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
 - Maintain complete and accurate records of the EFL's income and expenditures
 - Have charge of all EFL finances
 - Present a current report on the EFL's finances at each league meeting

ADMISSION OF NEW TEAMS:

- The Admission Committee shall consist of the Commissioner and a minimum of 3 members as appointed by the EFL Commissioner.
- It shall be the duty of the Admissions Committee to:
 - Receive applications from new teams.
 - Review and recommend applications for meeting minimal requirements.
 - Investigate new team applications and present at the Annual Meeting.
 - All teams meeting minimal requirements shall be invited to the Annual Meeting for presentation to the Administrative Committee.
 - Any purchase of an EFL franchise has to be approved by the EFL Membership Committee and the Administrative Committee. If a transfer occurs without the approval of the EFL Membership Committee, the transfer will not be recognized by the EFL. All franchise transfers are automatically placed on one year's probation.
 - In order for a new team to be admitted into the EFL, a minimum 75% vote is required. If there are less than 10 teams in good standing, the approval will be based on a majority plus one vote. A fifty (50) mile radius restriction would permit any member team the right to veto the admission of any team in its proximity. The focal point for this measurement shall be the established playing field, that meets EFL standards, for that franchise
 - The EFL also has an overall mileage restriction of 425 miles. No team can be located more than 425 miles from its farthest EFL member team. Teams located outside any international boarder may be admitted only with the stipulation that they play all games within the boundaries of the United States and within the 425 mile restriction unless there is a mutual agreement with an opponent who is willing to travel outside of the United States boarders.

- o Minimum qualifications for admission of a team currently in operation shall be evidence of financial stability, operational stability, ability to be competitive and evidence of ownership of the necessary equipment and the availability of adequate playing facilities as defined in Conduct/Regulation.
- o ~~Upon admission to the EFL, the team will pay to the EFL an entry fee of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500) dollars in addition to the normal EFL fees due at the Annual Meeting. Once a team completes a year of good standing, they will then get a rebate of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).~~
- o Upon admission, to the EFL effective January 2018, the team will pay to the EFL one thousand five hundred (\$1,500) dollars which includes a one time franchise fee of \$500 plus a \$1,000 performance bond. Once a new team (one with no previous record) completes a year of good standing, they will then get a rebate of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). This is in addition to the normal EFL fees due at the annual meeting.
- o The \$1,000 performance bond may be waived by majority vote for established teams with a proven record.
- o A team not in good standing will be required to reapply for admission to the EFL as a new applicant not currently in operation. Forfeits shall result in reapplication for admission unless forfeit is declared No Fault by the Judiciary Committee. The entry fee will be waived.

EMPIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FEES:

- EFL fees shall be four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450) for basic league operating costs and is due at the Annual Meeting. Additional operating costs will be assessed by the Commissioner as needed. The League Commissioner and League Secretary will receive an annual compensation of \$300 each, payable at the end of the EFL season. *The Commissioner of Officials will receive an annual compensation of \$720 or current officials game fee package plus one month's phone bill of \$80 (\$800), payable at the end of the EFL season.*

SCHEDULE:

- The preparation of the schedule shall be the responsibility of the EFL Commissioner.
- All games will be played as scheduled; there will be no postponements.

CONDUCT AND REGULATION OF TEAM UNIT:

- Each of the EFL teams shall furnish the EFL Commissioner with a full and complete roster listing the full names, addresses and telephone numbers of all officers of his team. These rosters should be in sufficient quantity to provide one copy for each member team and one copy for the EFL files and should be provided by the EFL Annual Meeting.
- After the EFL has officially completed its season, all players are declared free agents and are permitted to change from one team to another without consent. However, each player must, based upon financial or equipment obligations to their team, have a written release from his original team. Each team is to notify the EFL with a list of outstanding financial and equipment obligations at both EFL meetings prior to the start of the season. Every player in the EFL must have a signed contract which becomes binding the day after the Annual Meeting. Players may sign a contract after the EFL Championship Game. The player has the option to void the contract up to the

day after the Annual Meeting. After this point, the player may be released only at the team's discretion. If the equipment is not returned by this date, acceptance and subsequent release is the option of the team.

- ~~New players may be added to a team's roster up through midnight on Saturday of the 6th week of the league regular season. In order to be eligible to play in the playoffs, players shall have played in at least one play, in one game prior to this date. By the following Wednesday, all teams shall send in their final rosters to the league office.~~
- New players may be added to a team's final roster if they have played in one play in one game, up through midnight on Saturday of the 6th week of the league regular season. Only rostered players are eligible for the playoffs. By the following Wednesday, all teams shall send in their final rosters to the league office.
- After the 6th week of the league regular season, you may not add any new players unless a team gets below 24 players. It then may request an appeal to the administrative committee to add enough players to reach a maximum roster of 26. These players will be eligible for the playoffs and each team will be notified of those additions.
- ~~A one time, per season, appeal to add one player, to the judicial committee may be made due to hardship or extenuating circumstances (medical or physical injury only). The player will be eligible to play in the playoffs. This appeal must be made prior to the player being allowed to play in an EFL game.~~
- For any player that is added, a photo ID and personal information must be provided. ~~In addition, if a player has signed a professional teams contract and been paid to play (NFL, CFL, AFL, AFL2, LFL,) within the current calendar year, that player is considered a professional and not allowed to participate in the Empire Football League.~~
- Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any team, team official or any individual player, shall be dealt with by the Judiciary Committee. The offending person or persons may be subject to suspension. Each team shall be held responsible for the conduct of its players and its staff, whether individually or collectively. The Judiciary Committee may, if they deem it beneficial to the EFL, suspend any team personnel. A second Level 2 violation in the same season results in an automatic suspension for the rest of the year. Assault on an official results in a lifetime ban.
- Any team not on the field, ready to play within fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled time for the game, may be subject to such fine as the Judiciary Committee shall impose. If said team has not appeared, ready to play within one hour (60 minutes) after the scheduled time for the commencement of the game, the game may be played with the consent of both teams. If this game is not played, it will be forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for a decision.
- Each team shall be equipped with two (2) sets of jerseys, one dark and one **white** of the team colors, to allow for the use of contrasting uniforms in each game. All players must wear the same number at home and away games. If a change absolutely has to be made, the other team must be informed and it must be reflected on the roster for that night. The roster should be sent to the other team on the Monday prior to the game.
- Each visiting team shall contact the home team on Wednesday prior to the playing date and confirm playing field location and locker room locations. Teams must exchange rosters by the Wednesday evening prior to their game. The home team will wear dark jerseys and the visiting team will wear **white** jersey colors. Each team is to provide the opposing team with any roster changes at least 30 minutes prior to game time. Failure to adhere to any of the above will result in an automatic \$250 fine payable immediately. No player or player coach shall be paid for participation in any

EFL game. ~~Any player that is being paid in an arena league or other paid league is considered a professional and therefore cannot play for an EFL team, in that calendar year.~~ Any member team found in violation of this rule shall be subject to immediate suspension. Travel money to practice shall be considered as paying the participant and shall not be allowed by the EFL.

- Each team must play its home games at a field surrounded by fencing and with a facility for collecting paid admissions. The field must be properly marked and properly lighted for night games. Facilities for adequate crowd control and security should be present. Separate shower and locker room facilities will be provided for each team. Proper rest room facilities must be provided for the fans. There will be a scoreboard and time clock with operator at all facilities. There should be announcer and the National Anthem must be played.
- All EFL games shall be scheduled for Saturday night. In the event that Saturday night is not available, a Sunday afternoon option may be utilized at the time of scheduling. All other playing dates/times must be mutually agreed upon by the participating teams.
- The EFL fine for not having a representative attending an EFL meeting, regular or special, will be \$250. The absent member team will be submitted to the Judiciary Committee for a hearing to consider "not in good standing".
- Each team will appoint a team statistician, who will gather all required statistics for EFL regular season, Playoff and Championship games. Each team is to report the game stats for its team to the EFL Statistician by noon the ~~Monday~~ Wednesday following the game. Failure to complete this required EFL task will result in a fine of \$50 per day for each day delinquent. Statisticians and Spotters will be offered equal opportunity to perform their duties in the press box at all EFL games.
- No EFL team shall play any non EFL team if that team owes funds to the EFL and/or any EFL member team.
- Each home team will be responsible for providing authorized medical personnel at EFL games which include medical doctors, physician's assistants, EMTs, Registered Nurse and certified trainers. Ambulances will be called if necessary by the authorized medical personnel via direct communication. The authorized medical personnel's identification will be shown, upon request, to the visiting team. An effort will be made by the home team, as often as possible, to provide an ambulance at the game. If no medical personnel are present, the game will be delayed for ½ hour. If no medical personnel appear, the home team is responsible and will take a forfeit. The home team will also have to reimburse travel expenses for the visiting team up to a maximum of \$2,000.
- All preseason games will fall under the Empire Football League By Laws.
- All players must have photo I.D. with their height and weight listed. The heights and weights should be kept on a separate sheet and should be available if asked for. If a player does not have a driver's license, he should obtain an official I.D.

- All league debts are to be paid in full by May 1st of the current season. Every week after May 1st, a fine of \$50 will be levied and will be due along with the current dues. This must be paid within the week between the team's first game the second one. If this is not paid, and another game is played there will be another \$50 fine. This will continue for as long as it takes to pay all dues and fines in full. If the team completes its regular season and it has not taken care of all debt, including fines, it will be disqualified from post season play. Also, the team will not be allowed to have anyone from the team recognized with post-season awards. In addition to the fines already assessed, they will now face an additional \$250 fine for failing to pay league debt prior to the end of the season. This debt must now be paid prior to the end of the season meeting. If payment is not made, the team is placed on a one year leave of absence. Regardless of which team violates this, it shall be punished on a no excuses basis. Additionally, this incorporates all league debt such as footballs, old debt, and any fines incurred during the season.
- Players cannot play in 2 semipro/adult amateur summer/fall leagues during the same calendar year. Violators will be banned from the EFL for the remainder of the season. If an EFL team willingly violates this policy, they will forfeit the game(s) and will be subject to a fine.

GAME PROCEDURES:

1. The EFL rules shall be the NFL rules except as modified by the EFL.
2. Each game shall be worked by a crew of officials, qualified and certified by a recognized association of Certified Football Officials. The crew of officials shall be paid in accordance with the determination by the EFL Commissioner of Officials.
3. The home team shall furnish chain crews, chains and sideline markers. The visiting team has the right to place one (1) member of its organization on the chain crew if it desires. The visiting team however, must notify the home team of such decision at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled game time.
4. Visible security of some kind must be present for each event. The security must be identifiable
5. The home team shall furnish fifty (50) pounds of ice for the visiting team. The home team will furnish three (3) league footballs, of which at least two (2) will be new footballs. The game officials must approve the three footballs prior to game time. ~~The League will buy the footballs and the EFL teams will buy from the League.~~ *The official ball will be the EFL football, Duke NFL Football by Wilson.*
6. The home team will provide access to the locker room and field facilities, for the visiting team, at least two (2) hours prior to kickoff.
7. The presence of an EFL Officer is mandatory at all EFL post season games. Officers should be present at all games to ensure that the facilities and game conditions meet EFL standards. If no Commissioner is available for a game, the visiting coach will prepare a game report. The Commissioners will rotate each week. No team should go more than a week without coverage. Commissioners should be in proper attire.

8. All teams must accept playoff ranking and participation. Any team that qualifies for the playoffs should meet that obligation. Failure to participate will be forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for review.
9. For every post season EFL game, the visiting team is responsible for their own transportation expenses.
10. For all playoff and championship games, the host team will submit an official report on costs for the following:
 - Stadium
 - Officials
 - Security
 - Transportation of Visiting Team
 - Ice
11. Should a surplus appear after expense accounting for playoff and championship games, the host team will pay the EFL 10% of such surplus.
12. The team with the better record has the first option of hosting. Upon mutual consent of both teams, the team with the lower record could host the game. Any additional financial agreements between the two teams must be submitted to the EFL Commissioner and will be enforced by the EFL.
13. EFL (8) Tie Breakers:
 1. Head to head games; best team with least points scored against them between the head to head teams
 2. Best win/loss record among tied teams
 3. Best win/loss record within the division
 4. Best win/loss record outside the division
 5. Best win/loss record against common opponents
 6. Best win/loss record against common opponents, outside the division
 7. ~~Best team with least points scored against them~~ "Team with best winning percentage against common league opponents of games actually played."
 8. Coin toss
14. All EFL games will start at 7pm, Saturday night unless mutually agreed upon by the two teams. The EFL Commissioner and Game Officials must be notified.

APPEALS:

- Any team can appeal any grievance to the Judiciary Committee at any time.
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