

NAJFL
BY-LAWS
2018
SEASON

NORTHERN AREA JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

3/10/2014

ARTICLE 1

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this organization shall be to implant in the youths of the League the ideals of good sportsmanship so that they may become finer, stronger, and happier youths and will grow to be good, clean and healthy young adults. This objective will be achieved by providing supervised competitive football games and cheerleading competitions. The supervisors shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games or competitions is secondary, and the molding of future adults is of prime importance.

ARTICLE 2

ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE

Section 1 Teams that are representative of a school district shall be eligible to make application for membership in the Northern Area Junior Football League ("League"). Members of teams must reside within the local school district in order to be eligible to play for that team. If a particular school district does not sponsor any youth football team in the League, residents of that district may be eligible to play for an adjoining district's team. Any exceptions must be approved by the League at a meeting of the organization.

Section 2 New applicants seeking admission to the League shall be voted on by the total membership present at the meeting. The vote of a simple majority of the League members present at that meeting is needed for acceptance. A 2 calendar-year probation must be served before a team shall become a full time member of the League. During the first full year of probation, a newly admitted team shall not have any League voting rights. No representative of a newly admitted team shall serve as an officer or director of the League until after his or her team has satisfactorily completed the 2 year probationary period.

Section 3 All newly admitted teams shall be required to pay to the League a non-refundable initiation fee of \$100.00.

Section 4 In addition to the initiation fee set forth in Section 3, all newly admitted teams shall also be required to make payment to the League of a good faith deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) at the time of acceptance, which shall be held in the League's general account. Provided a team is in good standing at the time, this good faith deposit shall be refunded upon that team's withdrawal from the League.

Section 5 Members of a team within a school district must play/cheer for that team/school they are registered at to attend that school year. If members wish to switch teams within a district or school they must obtain a waiver of residency exemption prior to the regular season beginning. The residency exemption form must be signed by all officers from both teams officers and league officer before practice begins.

ARTICLE 3

MEETINGS

Section 1 Unless otherwise directed by the League, regular meetings will be held on the second (2nd) Monday of each month beginning with the annual meeting in January and concluding with the November meeting. There will be no calls to remind teams of these meetings.

Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the League President at any time or upon written request of at least three (3) individual teams. Whenever possible, the League President shall provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice of any special meeting.

Section 3 Any team not represented at a duly scheduled meeting, by a representative for football (and a representative for cheerleading if required) shall be assessed a fine of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00). This fine will be paid to the League. Each team must pay in full for all meal reservations given at previous meeting. Reservations cannot be cancelled. If a team misses 3 meetings in a row, they lose voting rights for a year. The \$100 fine is progressive, \$100 1st meeting, \$200 2nd meeting, \$300 3rd meeting, etc...

Section 4 Each team present shall be entitled to one vote at all League meetings. Except in the case of a tie-breaker (Section 6), League officers shall not vote on League issues.

Section 5 Once voted upon, a decision is final for the rest of the calendar year.

Section 6 Majority rules in a vote. If a vote ends in a tie, the League President or, in his or her absence, the Vice President, will break the tie.

Section 7 No official meeting shall take place unless a quorum of both the League teams and officers is present. A quorum shall be a minimum of 51% of the teams in the League as well as at least 2 League officials.

Section 8 Alcohol will be allowed at league meetings, within reason. Anyone unruly or out of control will be asked to leave by the members of the board. The offending individuals' team will be fined \$100, and the individual will be suspended from meetings indefinitely.

Section 9 During an NAJFL meeting, if teams are voting to alter a decision made by the cheer reps at their meeting, a 5 minute recess will be called so that the cheer reps can confer with the football reps, and the issue may be voted on again at that meeting.

Section 10 All teams are required to have the appropriate number of coaches per team at the official coaches ruling meeting. If a team does not have the required number of coaches they will be fined \$50 per coach not in attendance, paid to the league.

Section 11 Any team not having all of their unpaid fees from the prior year paid to the league, prior to each new year/season, will lose voting privileged until those fees are paid.

Section 12 Any team (football rep or cheer rep) missing two or more consecutive meetings will lose voting privileges for the next meeting they attend.

ARTICLE 4

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amendments to this Constitution or the League's By-laws may be made at a duly constituted League meeting conducted prior to the start of the opening or after the official closing of a current season. Amendments must pass by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting provided that formal notice of the proposed amendments has been given at a previous regular meeting. Amendments must pass at three (3) consecutive monthly meetings, by at least a 3/4 vote, and be in place prior to the start of the season in order to be effective for that season. Playing rule changes need only pass once, by majority, to be effective, but playing rules can only be changed once per year.

AMENDED AND RESTATED BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 **OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 The officers of this League shall be as follows:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Chairperson of Publicity
- f. Head of cheerleading.
- g. Commissioner of Officials (appointed not administrative)

SECTION 2 Each office shall be held for a two year term. Elections will be staggered, with the President, Secretary & head of Cheerleading elected in even numbered years, and the Vice-president, Treasurer, & Publicity Chairperson elected in odd numbered years. Nominations for League officers shall be accepted each year at the November meeting and elections will be held each year at the meeting in January.

SECTION 3 Any vacancies which may exist before the annual elections shall be filled by a vote of the League at a regular meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4 Every officer and all teams are responsible to follow the provisions of Pennsylvania law regarding child abuse clearances for volunteers in direct contact with the children. An official sheet in the coaches' book, both football and cheerleading, must be filled in with the names of all coaches who have received clearance by the July meeting. New coaches may be added upon receipt of clearance.

ARTICLE 2 **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 The President shall:

- a. Preside over all meetings of the League.
- b. Appoint the chairman of any committee.
- c. Plan the meetings and activities of the League.
- d. Represent the League, or appoint a representative to do so, at area meetings or other events where it is in the best interests of the League to participate.
- e. Serve as an ex-official member of all committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee.
- f. Serve as the tiebreaker in the event of any votes.

SECTION 2 The Vice President shall:

- a. Conduct meetings in the absence of the President and, in that event only, serve as the tiebreaker of any votes.
- b. Serve as a special assistant to the President with the member teams.

SECTION 3 The Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain a record of all proceedings of the League and shall read these minutes at the next meeting.
- b. Provide each team representative with a copy of the minutes following that meeting.

SECTION 4 The Treasurer shall:

- a. Take receipt of all monies and deposit it in the League account.
- b. Pay all bills by check as directed by members, with 2 signatures of officers on the check.
- c. Provide the League members with a formal written accounting of all League receipts, deposits and disbursements during the course of the year. This annual accounting shall be distributed to all League members and officers at or before the next year's April meeting.
- d. Keep track of all fines paid to the league by each organization, and use each organizations fine money to pay down their share of the end of year assessments.

SECTION 5 The Chairperson of Publicity shall:

- a. Send scores to newspapers and post on the League facebook page.
- b. Send scores and rankings to each organization in a timely manner.
- c. Keep records for scheduling.

SECTION 6 The Chairperson of Cheerleading shall:

- a. Preside over cheerleading.
- b. Keep the board informed of cheerleading changes, and keep cheerleading informed of changes by the league.

SECTION 7 The Commissioner of Officials shall:

- a. Appoint four (4) officials for each game if possible.
- b. Inform League officials and teams of any rule change.

ARTICLE 3

PRACTICES AND GAMES

SECTION 1 PRACTICES

- a. The first official practice for all League teams can not be before the 3rd Monday in July.
- b. After the first game of each season, teams are allowed only four (4) days of practice during the week (i.e., Monday through Saturday). No more than three (3) practices, however, can be full pads. If a team practices a fourth time in a given week, at least one of that week's practices must be helmets and spikes only. No Sunday practices will be allowed. Any team/squad in violation of practice rules will be fined \$100 per team, paid to the league.

SECTION 2 GAMES

- a. Teams are limited to one regularly scheduled game per weekend. Whether games are played on Saturday evening or Sunday will be determined by the home team. For Saturday evening games, the D game must start at 5:30 p.m. For Sunday games, the D game must start no earlier than 12:00 noon or later than 1:00 p.m. Any exceptions to these starting times must be approved by both teams and the League. Make-up games will be determined by League. With the exception of tiebreaker games to determine playoff spots, no regularly scheduled games will take place on school nights.
- b. If all games on a given day are to be cancelled due to the weather, it is the home team's responsibility to notify the Commissioner of Officials and the opposing team at least three (3) hours before the start of the D game. Weather cancellations after the start of the D game will be made as soon as it is clear that continued play may pose a risk to players, participants and/or spectators. Absent compelling circumstances, any home team which fails to provide such notice shall, at a minimum, bear the sole costs for the officials for each cancelled game and may, if the League deems it appropriate, either forfeit a game which is cancelled on less than 3 hours notice or forfeit home field advantage for such a game in the case it is rescheduled.
- c. All teams are required to play ALL SCHEDULED GAMES. If for any reason a team cannot field a squad, at least 48 hours notice must be given by that team to the League, opposing team, and officials. If a team, without providing said notice, fails to either appear for a scheduled game or forfeits a game due to a player shortage, that team shall be fined \$250.00 per team/squad, (i.e., D, C and/or B), which fine shall be paid to the opposing team, and also will pay the entire cost of the referee fees if present at the game. Exceptions to this rule will be considered by the League.
- d. Unless otherwise altered by these Bylaws or League action, all games shall be played in accordance with the then-existing P.I.A.A. rules.
- e. Pre-season scrimmages have no limit per week.
- f. Each team is limited to 8 adults per bench, each of whom must be listed on the roster, and must be wearing a League approved sideline pass, with a picture of the coach on the back. The head coach of each team is responsible for this bench and seeing that the rule is adhered to and that the assistant coaches comply with the League and P.I.A.A. rules. If any coach does not have a sideline pass, his organization will be given a \$25 fine.
- g. Length of quarters shall be 8 minutes for all A, B, and C teams. Halftime intermissions shall be 10 minutes unless otherwise agreed to by opposing coaches. There also should be 5 minutes between the D & C, C & B and the B & A games.

- h. All games ending in tie shall be decided by employing the 10 yard rule set forth in the P.I.A.A. rule book.
- i. If, after halftime, one team is leading by 28 points or more, the “mercy rule” shall go into effect and the clock will run continuously until the game ends.
- j. During regular season the home/host team is responsible to contact the league Publicity Chairperson with scores no later than 6pm on the Sunday of that weeks games. Playoff games the host team is responsible to contact the Publicity Chairperson with scores. Failure to contact the Publicity Chairperson with scores via phone, text or email will result in a fine of \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for each offense afterwards for that season.

SECTION 3 ROSTERS

- a. Rosters of each organization’s teams (D, C & B teams) must be distributed to the League and all opposing teams at the last meeting before the first game of each season. Extra copies are also to be provided to the League secretary for filing. Rosters must include each player’s number, name, & date of birth. All rosters must be in numerical, not alphabetical, order. In the event a player’s number, for any reason, changes after rosters have been distributed, the League and all opposing teams must first be notified of the number change before that player can wear a jersey bearing the new number in any game. All coaches and waterboys must be listed on the roster in order to be eligible for a sideline badge or a medal in the Play-offs and/or Superbowl.
- b. Organizations not having rosters in at the required meeting will be fined \$50.00 per team (D, C & B) by the League;
- c. Organizations have until the Friday of the 3rd week of the current NAJFL season to add players or cheerleaders to their rosters and must inform the League secretary and each team of any and all player additions and subtractions as soon as they are made. Exceptions:
 - 1.) Roster additions after this date will be permitted only if a player moves into the district after this deadline. Once officially on the roster, players are immediately eligible to play.
 - 2.) Any organization that folds a team during the current season, those players ONLY are eligible to join another team in our league once notification to the league has been made.

- d. Any team adding players to a roster or correcting any player information on its original roster after it has been distributed to the League and to other teams shall provide the League and all other teams updated rosters as soon as possible but, in no event, later than the Friday before the third week of the season.

SECTION 4 OFFICIAL BOOK

- a. Each organization of the League must have an official book of each team with a separate page (including front and back) for each player consisting of:
 - 1. Player's current level individual picture.
 - 2. Copy of his or her birth certificate or any other official document with a birthdate.
 - 3. Official League permission slip.
 - 4. Place for official weight and jersey number and set up numerically.
 - 5. Place for the school district residing in on top of form.
- b. Players must appear in official book in the order that they appear on the team roster (i.e., in numeric order) for easy identification by opposing team at weigh-ins. Prior to the first game of the season, a weight page with a listing for each player must be signed by a representative of opposing team with the weight of that player (with or without equipment), even if over the applicable weight limit, and kept in the front of the book. Also, the date the official book was signed by a representative of an opposing team must appear on top of the page.
- c. Any players not present for the first game or not on the roster or in the official book for the first game must have opposing representative weigh the player in and sign the book and date it in the same manner outline in Section C before that player can play.
- d. After all team rosters have been finalized, during the week before the fourth game of the season, there will be a special meeting to certify each team's official book. Official books will be reviewed and certified by an opposing team's officer. Failure to turn in an official book at the required meeting will result in that organization being fined \$50 for each book. If a book is certified during the meeting but has errors, a league corrections sheet must be turned in to the league by the certifying team. Failure to correct errors in the book prior to the next game will result in the head coach being suspended for their next game. If book violations are found during playoffs the head coach will be suspended for the entire playoffs that season.
- e. All coaches are required to have a PA Criminal History Clearance and Child Abuse Clearance completed prior to practice beginning. As per act 15 of 2015(senate bill 1276). These clearances are to be placed in the back of each League book of each team/squad and will be checked at the league book meeting.

SECTION 5 GAMES AND WEIGH-INS

- a. Weights shall be determined by a certified scale, preferably a balance scale, approved by the League and provided by the home team. If an opposing team wants to challenge the home team's scale, it must have its own certified 50 lb. weight present.
- b. Weigh-ins will take place at least one hour before the game, in a designated place by the home team where the players can change if necessary and be out of sight of unauthorized personnel. All weigh-ins must be performed in the presence of the opposing team's representative.
- c. A coach or team representative may challenge the weight of any or all opposing players. Players will be lined up and weighed according to the roster and official book.
- d. A player has until 5 minutes before the game to make weight. However the only time a player can be weighed twice is if the player is close enough to the limit to possibly make weight without equipment on. In this case the player may remove equipment, and some clothing if necessary, to have another chance to be weighed. The player may not leave the weigh-in room or area between weigh-ins.
- e. A player trying to lose weight before game cannot employ any type of body wrap or plastic garments. Also, no extreme methods of weight loss, including but not limited to running, vomiting, etc., shall be permitted under any circumstances. Violations of this rule shall automatically result in that player being disqualified from participating in that game. Any coach or team representative who is determined by the League (after notice and an opportunity to be heard has been provided to that coach or representative) to have suggested or condoned any unsafe methods of weight loss will be barred from the League.
- f. A player not making weight must be visible on the side line throughout the game with his jersey on, numbers showing and wearing no shoulder pads. If that player decides to leave the game site before the end of the game, the opposing coach must be notified.
- g. A player not making weight may move up a team (i.e., D To C, C to B or B to A), but once that player is put on the higher team's roster he is no longer eligible for the lower team and must remain on the higher team roster and in the official book for the remainder of the season, unless used on a taxi squad.
- h. Host team is responsible for crowd control. Any unruly or abusive fans must be asked to leave the game site by the home team.

- i. Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited at games sites. All tobacco products are prohibited at game site.
- j. No animals allowed at game sites.
- k. No food or drink allowed from outside of site, except for players & cheerleaders.

SECTION 6 SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT ON FIELD

- a. See Article 1 of Constitution.
- b. All coaches, players, and officials must conduct themselves in a sportsmanship like manner during all games, and all team representatives shall similarly conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during all League meetings and other League-sponsored events.
- c. The League will not tolerate unsportsmanship or profanity at any game, League meeting or other event by team representatives, players or officials.
- d. Any team representative, player, or League official charged with unsportsmanship or profanity at the game will be brought before the League for disciplinary action.
- e. If action is to be taken, the League will set up a meeting as soon as possible with that person, as well as both teams involved, present. Players, however, are not required to attend such meetings.
- f. After hearing from all concerned parties, the League will make recommendations and take actions it deems necessary and appropriate, including individual suspensions and/or team reprimands or fines if necessary.

SECTION 7 TAXI SQUAD

- a. Taxi squads shall be permitted for C and B teams. Before a taxi squad can be used, however, the team in question must have at least 9 players on its regular roster to start the game.
- b. Teams may taxi up enough players not to exceed the opponent team on the field.
- c. Any team wishing to use a taxi squad must notify the opposing team that it is using a taxi squad.
- d. Any team wishing to use a taxi squad also must have a signed permission slip from a parent/guardian, in a form approved by the League, for each player

(football players only) on the taxi squad before that player will be eligible to play for the taxi squad.

SECTION 8 PROTESTS

- a. If a protest is based upon an illegal player or a playing rule or by-law violation, the protesting team must notify a game official and opposing coach at the game site and must also notify the President or a League officer verbally or via e-mail, by the end of that day.
- b. All protests must also be put in writing and submitted to the President of the League and the opposing team within 24 hours of the alleged incident. The written notice must clearly state any and all reasons for the protest. Any matters not contained in the written protest may not be considered by the League.
- c. Teams can only protest a rule violation, not a judgment call. Any team making a protest shall pay a \$100 deposition to the League, which shall be returned if the protest is successful. If the protest is unsuccessful, the deposit shall be forfeited to the opposing team.
- d. If a team is brought up on charges, and a tape is to be used, then the League President and all concerned parties must have access to the tape for review at least 72 hours prior at any meeting or action being taken. The team that brings up the charges must provide the tape.
- e. The League officers will review the allegations of all protests and determine, within 24 hours of receipt of a written protest, if League action should be taken. Both teams will be notified of the League's determination prior to the next scheduled game. No disciplinary or other corrective action will be taken by the League against any team, coach or player unless the team representative for the involved organization is first afforded reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard by the League.
- f. A player, coach, team representative or team may appeal any adverse League action taken after a protest by another team. Prior to the start of the season, the League President shall appoint an appeals panel comprised of representatives from five (5) different teams, which panel shall preside over all appeals of any disciplinary action taken by the League during that season. All requests for appeals shall be submitted in writing to the League and the current members of the Appeals Panel within seventy-two (72) hours of the League action in question. All notices of appeal shall set forth clearly and fully the reason(s) for the appeal. The Appeals Panel shall convene a special hearing for purposes of considering the appeal and shall provide all concerned parties with at least 24 hours advance notice of, and an opportunity to be heard at, that hearing. All decisions of the Appeals Panel, which shall be by simple majority vote, shall be final. Any member of the Appeals Panel who is a representative of a team involved in a protest (as either the complaining or defending party) shall recuse himself/herself

from any proceedings or decisions pertaining to that protest. If necessary, the President, or in his absence the Vice-president, can break a tie.

ARTICLE 4

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION 1 PLAYER PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

- a. No player can play for any High School (Freshman, Junior Varsity or Varsity) or Seventh & Eighth Grade team even though that player may be under the League's age limits. Any player who is on the roster for any High School or Eighth Grade team that plays at least 1 game will be automatically ineligible to play in the League regardless of whether or not the player actually participates in the game, for the remainder of that season..
- b. The following are the League's age limits:
 - D -Team - minimum age - at least 5 years old on May 1st; maximum age 7 years old on May 1st.
 - C -Team - minimum age -- 8 years old on May 1st; maximum age -- 10 years old on May 1st.
 - B -Team - minimum age -- 11 years old on May 1st; maximum age -- 12 years old on May 1st
 - A player in their final year, on any level, may move up 1 level with signed parents permission, and coaches approval. Once rostered the player must stay on that level.
- c. Weight cannot exceed 115 lbs. for the D-team, 140 lbs. for the C-team, and 160 lbs. for the B-team.
- d. If corrective glasses are worn they must be safety glasses.
- e. All equipment must comply with the then-current P.I.A.A. rules.
- f. Footwear - molded, undetectable or detachable 1/2 inch rubber or plastic cleats or sneakers. Any players found to be wearing illegal footwear will be barred from that day's game or until corrected.
- g. Game balls will be K2 – D & C-Team, TDJ – B-team, TDY – A-team, (Wilson), or any other balls which may be from time to time authorized by the League. Game ball may be leather or composite. For D & C teams only, the snap of the ball will be at the discretion of the offensive team.

- h. Mouthpiece must be strapped to players' helmet. Only exception is medical brace mouthpieces..
- i. All teams will have a red "safety flag" which the head coach may throw to discuss any unnecessary roughness, late or illegal hit that was not called for a penalty on the play. The flag can be thrown 1 time per half per team for a maximum of 2 times for the game. The coach and 1 assistant will be allowed to discuss the play with the head referee, opposing head coach, and playside referee involved in the play. Discussion cannot last longer than 2 minutes. All children involved in the play under discussion **MUST** be checked by an adult during the 2 minutes. League issued red flags only..
- j. Officials can be suspended indefinitely by the league for not enforcing the red safety flag rule.
- k. No cell phone use by coaches during games. Any coach caught using a cell phone on the sidelines during a game will have a \$100 fine imposed against his organization for the 1st offense, and a \$200 fine for the 2nd offense. In addition to the fine, the coach will be suspended following the 2nd offense until they are re-instated by the appeals board. Proof must come by a referees flag or photo or video supplied by the opposing team.

l. D team Playing Rules

The following are the accepted playing rules that were a result of joint discussion and vote at league meeting 3-13-17. Normal PIAA game rules apply with the addition of the following league specific rules for D Level.

- D game will consist of a normal format of four quarters, but each quarter will be 10 minutes long.
 - 1. Each quarter will be a 10 minute running clock with the following exceptions:
 - a. Clock will stop after every score and not restart until the snap of the first play after change of possession
 - b. Injuries
 - c. Official Timeouts
 - d. Safety Timeout (Red flag)
 - e. Normal clock timing rules for the last 2 mins of each of the 4 quarters
- Score will be kept for official standings.
- 8 minute halftime with change of possession and field direction after half.
- Teams will be permitted 2 timeouts per half.

- No regular season overtime. A tied score will be recorded as such in the standings. Playoffs will have normal overtime playing rules implemented.
- Possession will start at own 30 yd line on initial possession of game, beginning of 2nd half, and after any score
- Ball will remain on spot if turned over on downs, fumble or interception. Fumble or interception spot will be once player is ruled down.
- No actual kickoffs or punts allowed. If a “punt” scenario is elected, the ball will be placed at a distance of 25 yards from line of scrimmage and can only be elected if line of scrimmage is on the 50 yard line or on the offense’s end of the field (the side of the field of the end zone they would defend if on defense).
- Games will have 4 referees on the field for each game. Minor infractions will not be assessed all season but will be called out for teaching purposes. If a minor infraction has an obvious influence on the current play, then down will be replayed as determined by referee. Penalties for major infractions (safety, interference, unsportsmanlike, etc.) will be assessed.
- There will be a 40 second play clock which will be monitored by an on-field referee. Last chance for “Run the play” call will be at 5 seconds left on play clock. “Run the play” can be announced at any time the referee deems both teams are ready to play.
- Two coaches from each team are permitted on the field during the game. At the referees’ discretion on game day, an additional coach may remain on the field to provide water to the players.
- Coaches may position players and coach team until referee declares “Run the play”. Once that is called, no coaching allowed.
- On Defense, there will be 2 defensive linemen front formations allowed:
 - a. 5 man front. Defense linemen will line up as normally allowed with the exception for the nose tackle who must line up head to head, and 1 yard off the line of scrimmage, from the center. Ends cannot be any further outside of the offensive ends than half a body (1 shoulder) prior to the snap. Once the ball is snapped all defensive linemen can move to wherever they need to (center may be engaged at this time).
 - b. 6 man front. Defensive linemen will line up head to head with offensive line with the exception for the center, who will remain uncovered in this formation prior to the snap. Once the ball is snapped all defensive linemen can move to wherever they need to (center may be engaged at this time).

- No blitzing by defense at any time. This refers to lining up in a pre-snap blitz position. After snap, ball carrier pursuit can happen as it normally would.
- No more than 4 Linebackers allowed in position on field at a time.
- Any player other than the Defensive linemen (linebackers, corners, and safeties) must remain at least 3 yards from the line of scrimmage until the ball is snapped.
- Games can be played with 9 on 9 for record if necessary
 1. If one team has less than 9 they can borrow players from the opposing team. However, the game will count as a loss for the team with less than 9 players
 2. The following line minimums must be utilized:
 - 11 on 11 – 7 man line left tackle, left guard, center, right guard, right tackle plus two/4 man backfield
 - 10 on 10 – 7 man line/3 man backfield
 - 9 on 9 – minimum 5 man line

SECTION 2 OFFICIAL FEES

- a. Official fees for the regular season are:
\$120 each for 4 officials for 3 games, \$95 each for 2 games.
- b. Officials will be paid for by the home team. During playoffs officials are paid for by the competing teams .

ARTICLE 5

SCORING AND PLAYOFFS

SECTION 1 SCORING

- a. TD - 6 points
- b. FG - 3 points
- c. Safety - 2 points
- d. Extra points - Run, Pass - 1 point; Kick - 2 points

SECTION 2 PLAY-OFF CRITERIA

Eligibility for play-offs shall be determined by the following criteria, which shall be considered in order:

1. Conference record
2. Head to head record
3. Draw from a hat if it doesn't eliminate a team
4. Play it out. 1 full quarter, then 10 yard rule until a winner is determined.

Use this system to break ties straight through. Do not go back after each tie is broken and start over to break another tie.

If, after applying the above criteria, the play-off berths cannot be determined, the teams which are not definitely included in, or excluded out of, the play-offs shall play each other at a neutral site selected by the League. If 3 teams are tied, and vying for a playoff spot, they play 1 quarter & then the 10 yard rule until a winner is decided.

SECTION 3 PLAY OFF SCHEDULE

- a. The League will finish out the existing schedule for the locations for Superbowl games and cheerleading competitions. After these existing schedules have been completed, all teams will draw to cover upcoming years.
- b. For as long as there are 2 Divisions in the League, the top 4 teams in each Division shall make play-offs. When playing as 1 league without divisions, the top 6 teams make the play-offs, with the #1 & #2 teams having the 1st week bye. All play-off games will be played at predetermined sites to be selected prior to the playoffs. The highest seed can pick their playoff site.
- c. Subject to Paragraph A, above, the League Championship site shall be picked by a random drawing with all teams eligible who meet the field requirements set forth below. Teams who have previously hosted shall be ineligible until all other eligible teams who are willing to host the Championship game have done so.
- d. Requirements for field:
 1. Playing field 100 yards of safe playing surface.
 2. Visible clock, scoreboard which is fully operational.
 3. Adequate facilities including rooms for both teams.
 4. Adequate lighting.
 5. Adequate seating and parking for fans.
- e. Play off Tiebreakers

With the exception of games played under Article 5, section 2 to determine playoff spots, if any regular playoff game ends in a tie after four (4) full quarters,

the “10 yard” rule, as set forth in the P.I.A.A. rule book, shall be used until a winner has been determined.

f. Championship/tiebreaker

1. If game ends in a tie, go to the 10 yard rule.
2. Commissioner makes all rulings approved by League.

ARTICLE 6

CHEERLEADING PLAYING RULES

Subject to the League’s Constitution and Bylaws, cheerleading representatives may adopt (by a majority vote) their own set of cheerleading/competition playing rules which shall be submitted to the League before the beginning of the season. Absent compelling circumstances which shall be brought before the League officers, directors and members, all playing rules adopted by the cheerleading representatives shall remain in effect for the entire season.

Host team must have a rain date and an indoor facility available on the rain date, to host a cheerleading competition.

NAJFL cheerleading must have 2 separate competitions.

Each winner will hold the trophy till the end of the current season, and return it to the next host at the January meeting. If the trophy is lost or broken it is the teams’ responsibility to replace it before the next competition, not the leagues. Replacing the plates on the trophy will be the responsibility of the host teams.

Cheerleader squads must attend all games with a minimum of 50% of rostered cheerleaders or team will be fined \$50.

These bylaws have been updated and amended July 9, 2018 by Junior Shotwell, NAJFL
Secretary, until the end of the 2018 season!