



## BYLAWS

**LABELLE DEVELOPMENTAL FOOTBALL (LDFL)  
DECEMBER 1, 2020 – NOVEMBER 30, 2021**





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**\*\*\*NOTICE: The LDFL Commissioner and LDFL Executive Board reserve the right to exercise discretion given to any situation as it arises concerning any area within these Bylaws whether explicitly stated or not. \*\*\***



## **ARTICLE 1 - NAME, PURPOSE**

**Section 1 - NAME:** LaBelle Developmental Football League, also known as the **LDFL**.

**Section 2 - PURPOSE:** The LDFL is a developmental football league promoting professional style football competition for adults. It is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, more specifically to provide the training ground to continue the development of adult athletes, coaches, and personnel on and off the field. Emphasis is placed on fundamental development, career development, community involvement, and education. Players will be challenged to adhere to high professional ethics and standards of excellence. We are committed to providing solid guidance to overcome all challenges by developing social, moral, and emotional growth. The LDFL Football Players are non-paid in compliance with NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA Associations.

**Section 3 – NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 the LDFL elects executive board members, selects a commissioner, votes on and confirms membership of new teams in the LDFL, selects a referee association, selects a webmaster, selects a “play by play” announcer as well as a video production company for “Game Day” without discrimination on the basis of age, gender, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, political affiliation, disability, ethnic identity, religion, national origin, or religion.

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1: Membership League Fees -** The LDFL fees are to be determined annually by at least the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting of the season. Fees are to be based on a membership approved budget and number of teams in the league. Once you have been notified your membership has been accepted, your LDFL fees must be paid in full on or before the established deadline. Failure to make your payment by the deadline will result in your application being terminated and membership denied.

If you have made your payment and have had a change of heart or if you decide to merge with another team you will automatically forfeit your payment. There will be absolutely NO EXTENSIONS to the due date and NO REFUNDS under any circumstances.

**Section 2:** LDFL membership shall include all teams, which are deemed as members in good standing who have:

- Paid their LDFL fees by the designated due date
- Signed the LDFL Team Membership Agreement
- Adhered to the Bylaws, and
- Attended all LDFL meetings

**Section 3:** Each team in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

**Section 4:** A team shall be considered not in good standing if they:

- Have forfeited a game - A forfeited game is defined as a game not played, or not completed because:
  - a. One of the teams failed to show up
  - b. The home team changed the game time, day, or location without proper notification (48 hours)



- c. The game was called by the refereeing officials
  - d. One of the teams used an ineligible player (either paid to play, not on the official roster at the closing date, or a player who was not released from their former team officially through the LDFL)
  - e. One team has less than 20 players at the start of the game
- Have not paid league fees on time
  - Has not attended or sent a team representative to mandated league meetings
  - Have not provided current insurance in the owner's name or team name
  - Have not provided their team's field location and contact information, or
  - Has violated any of the LDFL Bylaws

**Section 5:** Expansion may include up to **(32)** teams, with no more than **(4)** divisions with **(8)** teams per division. Any new team formed in a current LDFL area (a 5-mile radius of team's hometown field) cannot become a member of the LDFL, play any preseason, regular season, or post season games against an LDFL team without the expressed written approval of the areas home team and LDFL Board.

**Section 6:** New candidates must submit the "New Team Application" annually by the date designated for the upcoming playing season. New candidates will be interviewed in person.

**Section 7:** A simple majority vote of the membership present at the meeting is required for membership acceptance, by members in good standing. If accepted and voted in, a \$100.00 deposit is required on the day of interviews, that will be applied to that year's league fees.

**Section 8:** No teams assume voting rights and privileges until official acceptance to the league.

**Section 9:** All new teams are on a one-year probationary period with voting rights. Probation will be reviewed and voted on at the end of that year by the LDFL Executive Board and previous year members. Probation for any years after will be determined by said team's participation and professionalism in that year.

### **ARTICLE 3 - MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** Regular Meetings: During the off-season regular meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month. During the playing season regular meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the month. Meetings to start no later than noon. All meetings are to be in person and location for each meeting shall be set at the conclusion of each regularly scheduled meeting. There shall be no change to the meeting date, time, and location after it has been set, unless an emergency arises.

**ATTENDANCE FOR ALL MEMBERS IS MANDATORY.** If an owner is unable to attend a meeting, they must notify the LDFL Executive Board, a minimum of 24 hours in advance (if possible) and send a replacement representative. This replacement representative will have full voting rights on any voting required during meeting. If a replacement representative is not sent to the meeting, the owner will be fined \$250.00 and there will be no voting rights. The \$250.00 fine must be paid to the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of the missed meeting. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, they will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid.



**Section 2:** Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the LDFL Executive Board at an agreed time, date, and place. Special meetings may be called only when business is deemed so urgent by the LDFL Commissioner and/or Executive Board that it cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The secretary will be responsible for notifying members of special meetings. Special meetings are not mandatory. In the event a special meeting is not practical, a vote on urgent issues may be done by phone or e-mail. Each team will select the meeting representative and submit the e-mail and most accessible phone number to the LDFL so a list can be made available. All members must be contacted after a majority vote has been reached.

**Section 3:** LDFL meetings are limited to one “spokesperson” per team at the table. There should only be two (2) representatives per team at each meeting.

**Section 4:** Each team representative has one (1) vote regarding all LDFL business. This will include all motions, votes, items for approval, etc.

**Section 5:** The LDFL President will conduct (chair) all meetings by the LDFL Bylaws. The governing body shall determine descending order of authority. Any member who is absent must send a replacement representative or be fined (as written in Article 3 Meetings - Section 1).

**Section 6:** Agendas will be handed out by the Secretary at each regular meeting. Any member wishing to add to the agenda should submit said item to the Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the meeting, or when the Secretary calls for agenda items.

**Section 7:** LDFL Bylaws are reviewed annually by at least the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting of the season. A simple majority vote of the membership present at the meeting is required to pass amendments, deletions, or additions to the existing Bylaws and/or policies, by members in good standing. ***No changes will be made during the season.***

## **ARTICLE 4 – LDFL COMMISSIONER AND LDFL EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1:** LDFL Executive Board Size and Compensation: The LDFL Executive Board shall serve without compensation and consist of four (4) or more members and not less than three (3) members.

**Section 2:** LDFL Executive Board Role: LDFL Commissioner and the LDFL Executive Board is responsible for overall direction of the LDFL based on the Bylaws. If there is an issue that is not addressed in the Bylaws, the LDFL President will request a vote of the membership teams in good standing to decide.

**Section 3:** Term: LDFL Executive Board Members will be voted on annually by at least the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting of the upcoming season. A simple majority vote of the membership present at the meeting is required of members in good standing. There are no term limits if an Executive Board Member is voted in each year.

**Section 4:** Quorum: is defined as the ***minimum number of members of a decision-making group necessary to conduct the business of that group.*** The quorum for the LDFL is at least 60% of the LDFL Executive Board and LDFL members combined before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

**Section 5:** LDFL Executive Board and Duties: Commissioner, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each of the members of the LDFL Executive Board and the LDFL Commissioner will attend to LDFL business Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily. They will not answer or address



LDFL business on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The only exception is if a member team needs to report a game issue, injury, or other serious concern to the LDFL Commissioner (as stated in Article 14, LDFL Functioning). Their duties are as follows:

**a. Commissioner:** Carry out the overall day-to-day operations of the LDFL, maintain, plan, and ensure proper compliance of the LDFL Bylaws. The LDFL Commissioner will have the right to dictate if a team or player is in violation of LDFL Bylaws and make recommendation of fine or punishment based on what the Bylaws state.

The LDFL Commissioner should develop fundraising opportunities for the LDFL and its member teams. The LDFL Commissioner shall attend all LDFL meetings. The LDFL Commissioner may not be a team owner. The LDFL Commissioner does not have voting power, however, will serve as a tiebreaker in the event of a tied vote.

**b. President:** Shall act as LDFL Commissioner in the absence of the LDFL Commissioner. President shall chair each monthly meeting. Responsible for keeping monthly meetings in an orderly fashion and on time. Will address questions and will notify the LDFL Executive Board of issues requiring response from the LDFL Executive Board/Commissioner. Will determine if issues/problems can be addressed in the Bylaws. If Bylaws do not address issues/problems that have arisen, President shall initiate a vote of the membership to determine final ruling. Will chair committees on special subjects as designated by the LDFL Executive Board.

**c. Vice President:** Shall act as President in the absence of the President. Will chair committees on special subjects as designated by the LDFL Executive Board.

**d. Secretary:** Shall be responsible for keeping records of LDFL Executive Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all Board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each member, keep all approved minutes in a minute book, and assuring that records are maintained. Will be responsible for validating field insurance from each team as well as verifying field rentals. Will also be responsible for any updates to the Bylaws, and other administrative duties as assigned by the President/Commissioner.

**d. Treasurer:** Shall keep and maintain all financial records and provide monthly reports for each Board meeting. Shall assist in the preparation of the annual budget, make financial information available to LDFL Executive Board members and the public, process banking transactions, reimburse approved items, provide receipts, and handle the implementation and collection of penalties and fines. The Treasurer also serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

**Section 6:** Vacancies: When a vacancy on the LDFL Executive Board exists, the Secretary may receive nominations for new members from present LDFL Executive Board members two weeks in advance of a Board meeting. These nominations shall be sent out to LDFL Executive Board members with the regular Board meeting announcement, to be voted upon at the next Board meeting. These vacancies will be filled only to the end of the LDFL Executive Board member's term.

**Section 7:** Resignation, Termination, and Absences. Resignation from the LDFL Executive Board must be in writing and received by the Secretary. A LDFL Executive Board member shall be dropped for excess absences from the Board if she/he has three (3) unexcused absences from Board meetings in a calendar



year. A LDFL Executive Board member may be removed for other reasons by a simple majority vote of the remaining members of the LDFL Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE 5 - GOVERNING BODY**

The LDFL Executive Board and members in good standing will govern the LDFL. Annually, the members shall nominate and elect the LDFL Executive Board by a simple majority vote of members present and in good standing by at least the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting of the upcoming season. The LDFL Commissioner does not have voting power, however, will serve as a tiebreaker in the event of a tied vote.

## **ARTICLE 6 - COMMITTEES**

**Section 1:** The LDFL Executive Board may create standing and ad hoc committees as needed, such as fundraising, marketing, etc. The President appoints all committee chairs.

**Section 2:** Finance Committee. The Treasurer is chair of the Finance Committee, which includes the LDFL Commissioner, the President, and the Vice President. The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures and annual budget with other LDFL members. The LDFL Executive Board must approve the budget, and all expenditures must be within the budget. The LDFL Executive Board must approve any major change in the budget. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Monthly reports are required to be submitted to the LDFL Executive Board and LDFL members showing income, expenditures, and pending income. The financial records of the organization are public information and shall be made available to the membership, LDFL Executive Board members and the public when requested.

## **ARTICLE 7 - VOTING**

**Section 1:** As defined in Article 4 – LDFL Commissioner and LDFL Executive Board, Section 4: The quorum for the LDFL is at least 60% of the LDFL Executive Board and LDFL members combined before business can be transacted or motions made or passed. In absence of a quorum, no formal action shall be taken except to adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date. The LDFL Commissioner does not have voting power, however, will serve as a tiebreaker in the event of a tied vote.

**Section 2:** Passage of a motion requires a quorum.

## **ARTICLE 8 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Any member of the LDFL Executive Board who has a financial, personal, or official interest in, or conflict (or appearance of a conflict) with any matter pending before the LDFL Executive Board, of such nature that it prevents or may prevent that member from acting on the matter in an impartial manner, will offer to the LDFL Executive Board to voluntarily recuse him/herself and will vacate his/her seat and refrain from discussion and voting on said item.

## **ARTICLE 9 - FISCAL POLICIES**

The fiscal year of the LDFL Executive Board shall be January 1 to December 31.

## **ARTICLE 10 - AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the membership present at the of members in good standing provided



a copy of the proposed amendment(s) are provided to each LDFL Executive Board member at least one week prior to said meeting. The LDFL Commissioner does not have voting power, however, will serve as a tiebreaker in the event of a tied vote.

## **ARTICLE 11 - CONDUCT**

Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams, and Referees will maintain appropriate, professional, and respectful behavior at league meetings and on and off the field. Excessive profanity which includes the use of racial slurs will **not** be tolerated during league meetings or games especially when players are standing near the sideline where fans can hear it.

Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams, and Referees should not address **ANY** fan unless in a positive manner and NEVER during a game. Fighting or the threat of fighting of Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams, Referees and/or fans will bring automatic permanent ban from the LDFL. That includes threats via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, and Message Boards. No refunds will be issued for any LDFL League Fees.

Profanity towards any Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams, and Referees will result in immediate expulsion from the LDFL. There are no exceptions to this rule. Any team caught cheating or violating LDFL rules to win a game will be immediately and permanently removed from the LDFL. All games played will be forfeited and the team owners and players banned from participating with any LDFL team or LDFL events. No refunds will be issued for any LDFL League Fees.

All teams must have players under a written agreement or waiver to participate during the current playing season. Teams are not allowed to use players that are under contract from other teams or from teams in a different adult amateur, semi-pro, or developmental league playing in the same season. Players returning from paid professional leagues can participate in the LDFL if they have completed the required team paperwork before the closing of roster date, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## **ARTICLE 12 - EXPECTATIONS**

**Amenities:** All teams within the LDFL are expected to provide the same or equal amenities to the visiting team *if they are available*. This would be items such as practice fields (1 hour prior to the game start time), locker rooms, announcer's box, etc. If said amenities are not available to visiting team, home team should notify visiting team or include it in the game agreement.

**Bylaws:** All teams within the LDFL are expected to follow the Bylaws to the intent in which they were written. There will be immediate removal of any member that refuses to abide by the Bylaws. Teams that try to alter the meaning of the Bylaws for personal gain will be removed from the LDFL. Teams are expected to thoroughly read, understand, and abide by the Bylaws. All decisions, determinations, or fines assessed by the LDFL Commissioner or LDFL President are to be made using the Bylaws as the initial source document.

Teams are expected to abide by and enforce all Bylaws regardless of Owner, Team Staff Member, Coaches, Players, or any member representing or speaking on the team's behalf. Teams are expected to thoroughly review the LDFL Bylaws with every member of their organization including returning players to ensure that they are understood and enforced.



**Budget:** Teams are expected to budget for a minimum of 12 games; 8 to 10 game regular season and a 2-round play-off system that may require consistent travel of up to 3 - 5 hours. The LDFL will not assist any team with travel as it is the responsibility of the team to budget accordingly.

**Referees:** It is the team's responsibility to budget and pay for five (5) Field Referees at each game throughout the entire season as well as any home play-off games unless the LDFL has budgeted for payment of Referees for home playoff teams. If the LDFL has budgeted for playoff games, it will be determined and written into that year's Budget.

The budget for payment of Referees for home playoff teams will be voted on at the start of the playing season. It is your responsibility to ensure the proper numbers of Referees (5) are at each home game. The LDFL will fine any team \$300.00 that does not request and have 5 Referees at a game. The \$300.00 fine must be paid to the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid.

**Game Agreements:** Team owners can use game agreements for their home games. The owner should present the visiting team with the written game agreement at least one week prior to said game as to have appropriate time to review the agreement before signing. The agreement should contain pertinent information for the game including but not limited to:

- Game day, date, and time
- Game location, address, and directions
- Color of uniform for both home and away team
- Cost to get into game for patrons
- Locker Room availability
- Parking information for visiting team
- Estimated travel time
- Financial responsibility for referees (home team)
- Any additional pertinent information regarding game

Once the game agreement is signed by both owners, it is in effect. If a team is in violation of any of the above or anything included in the agreement, they would be fined \$100 payable to the owner of the team they are playing. The process for payment is the LDFL Treasurer would initially pay the owner \$100 and the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid.

The visiting team in violation would also be responsible for any and all costs associated for game including but not limited to field rental, videographers, play by play announcers, media, vendors, referees, etc. For costs associated through the game agreement, the home team owner would provide the LDFL President with the agreement and receipts, and the violating team would be fined the amount due for violating the agreement.

**Social Media:** Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, and LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams may not use ANY social media network to discuss LDFL business of any kind except for the "LDFL Owners" group on Facebook.



Owners, Team Staff Members, Coaches, Players, and LDFL Executive Board/LDFL member teams may use social networks to promote their team's upcoming functions but may not discuss any LDFL issues or results of LDFL issues at any time. This includes tweeting during meetings, having unapproved additional members on conference calls or sharing information that is deemed to be LDFL business without the knowledge of the LDFL Commissioner and any or all LDFL Executive Board Member(s). If found to be in contempt, you may be expelled from the LDFL after a review from the LDFL Commissioner and any or all LDFL Executive Board Member(s).

**Fields:** For purposes of our Bylaws, a “field” is defined as one that:

- Is marked properly,
- Has pylons,
- Has uprights,
- Has field goal cushions,
- Has bleachers on at least one side,
- Has a visible working clock that is being operated during the game,
- Has upkeep grass with no potholes,
- And, is not a park, unless the park has all items listed above.

No teams in the LDFL will be reimbursed for field rentals, equipment, game clocks, pylons, etc. It is the owner’s responsibility to pay for all items associated with the field. If a team’s field is in violation of any of the above, they would be required to pay a \$100.00 fine to the owner of the team they are playing. The \$100.00 fine must be paid to the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, they will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. Also, any questionable calls would go to the visiting team on improperly marked fields.

**Team Equipment:** Teams are expected to budget for and provide their own equipment to their players. Equipment is not the responsibility of the LDFL. There will be no reimbursements or requests for reimbursements approved by the LDFL.

### **ARTICLE 13 - PROPER PROTOCOL**

The proper chain of command for the LDFL Commissioner and any or all LDFL Executive Board Member(s) is as follows:

- Owner
- General Manager
- President
- Coach/Staff
- Player

At no time should a player contact the LDFL Commissioner or LDFL Executive Board unless they have gone through the proper chain of command.

### **ARTICLE 14 - LDFL FUNCTIONING**

**Weekly Updates:** Every Monday an update regarding news, hot topics, or LDFL issues will be distributed by the LDFL Commissioner to Owners and LDFL Executive Board Members, via e-mail and/or



through the “LDFL Owners” chat group on Facebook. Scores from the weekend, standings, field locations, and times for the upcoming weekend, and league or team status reports will be included if applicable.

**Reporting Critical Game Day Problems:** Any critical issues that arise during the game must be reported to the LDFL Commissioner immediately. If the LDFL Commissioner is unavailable, you must leave a message addressing the problem, including the date, time, field location, opposing team, and call back number. If there was resolution agreed upon by both Owners, BOTH Owners must inform the LDFL Commissioner of the resolution. DO NOT CONTACT members of the LDFL Executive Board during games.

If a party fails to submit information regarding a critical incident to the LDFL Commissioner immediately then they are accepting the outcome of the decision regardless if it's a suspension, ban, or fine. Any incident not reported during the designated time (before 11:59 p.m. on Saturday game day) will result in the issue being dismissed if brought up by one or both parties later.

**Reporting General Game Day Problems:** Any issues that arise during the game (non-critical) must be reported by both parties to the LDFL Commissioner by Monday following the game. The reporting time will be Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. either by phone, email, or through the Facebook chat group. If a party fails to submit information regarding an incident during the designated time, they are accepting the outcome of the decision regardless if it's a suspension, ban, or fine. Any incident not reported during the designated time will result in the issue being dismissed if brought up by one or both parties later.

**Cancellations of Season:** The LDFL Commissioner and LDFL President can initiate a vote of the membership that the season be cancelled due to the following:

1. if under state law, the Governor activates the National Guard due to a domestic emergency national disaster such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and/or earthquakes
2. if under state law, the Governor activates the National Guard due to a domestic emergency such as a civil disaster, rioting, or civil unrest
3. if the Governor or the President of the United States activates a state or national pandemic

A simple majority vote of members in good standing is required. Once there is a vote to cancel the season, The LDFL Commissioner will notify all LDFL media outlets, the LDFL website, and any other pertinent organizations of the cancellation.

## **ARTICLE 15 - PLAYER ASSIGNMENT/SIGNING**

All players must complete a player agreement/waiver with their respective team. Once the player has signed the paperwork; the team owner must also sign all forms verifying the player has thoroughly signed the documents.

The LDFL will permit each team to carry up to 60 players. Teams may not carry additional players as the LDFL does not have an injured reserve, practice squad, or taxi squad. Teams can carry their own practice squad for practice purposes, but those additional players will not be allowed on the 60-man roster. First roster submission of up to 60 players must be turned in no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the regular season. Teams can continue to add players to the roster up until the start of Week four (4) of the regular season, at which time, the rosters are closed.



All player agreements/waivers must be in the possession of the team owner between Week one (1) and Week four (4). Failure to maintain ALL paperwork by the established deadline will result in your players being ineligible. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS and NO EXTENSIONS to either deadline. Players must be signed and registered between Week one (1) and Week four (4). Any player that has not completed paperwork by the final deadline date will be ineligible for the duration of the football season. Any team caught in violation of the roster rules intentionally or unintentionally will be immediately removed from the LDFL.

If a player completes the required paperwork with a team, he has the right to play with another team in the LDFL for that playing season as long as there are no fees owed from said player. To play with another team, the player must not owe any fees and must pay a Team Transfer Fee of \$100.00 to the LDFL prior to that player playing in a game. The LDFL Treasurer will notify the owners when such transaction has been completed. The player will also be required to pay an additional \$10 LDFL Fee for the Player Card, and any additional team fees to the team in which the player is transferring to. This is only allowed up until the start of Week four (4). Any uniforms/equipment that said player has, must be returned to the vacated team without question. After Week four (4), no player can go to another team in the LDFL regardless of situation (Team Folding/Ceasing Operations). Also, no refunds will be dispersed to any owners/players by the LDFL for any reason.

No LDFL player can play or participate with another team during the same playing season as the LDFL. Any player that chooses to violate this rule by playing with another semipro, adult amateur, or minor league outside of the LDFL during the season will be permanently banned from participating in the LDFL.

It's always required that every player in the LDFL act in a professional manner. Any player that does not act in a manner conducive to the LDFL code of conduct will be suspended indefinitely by the LDFL Commissioner.

If you have a player listed on the roster but do not have the paperwork for that player, he will be immediately removed from the team's roster and considered ineligible for the remainder of the year.

Electronic copies of team rosters must be in the LDFL Commissioner's possession between Week one (1) and Week four (4). Any player not listed on the official LDFL roster that is posted on the LDFL website (or partner site) will be considered illegal.

It is the policy of the LDFL that roster checks with LDFL Player Card/Photo ID are done before every game by teams playing each other. If said player states to not have his/her LDFL Player Card/Photo ID at that time, they **are not** eligible to play in said game and a LDFL investigation may be conducted for said player.

## **ARTICLE 16 - SIDELINE PERSONNEL**

It is not proper etiquette to be on another team's sideline during a game if your team is not playing at that time. This applies to owners, coaches, staff, and players. The only person that has free reign to be on a team's sideline during a game is the **LDFL COMMISSIONER**. Be respectful to all LDFL member teams during a game.



Any player that has been removed from a team or league via the LDFL for any violation, cannot be on ANY team's sideline. If it is found that this action has occurred, the offending team will be fined \$200.00. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$200.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid.

If a player is fined for any reason and has not paid the fine, they cannot transfer to another team until the fine is paid. The new team acquiring the player **cannot pay the fine for the player**. The player must pay the fine prior to joining the new team. All transfer fees also apply.

Any coach, owner, or staff of an LDFL team that has been ejected by the officiating referees from a game for any reason such as disciplinary reasons, excessive profanity, unprofessional conduct, threats, threatening to fight, etc. will be fined \$250.00. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$250.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid.

Failure to pay the fine will result in an indefinite suspension and possible expulsion. Said coach cannot return until fine is paid to the LDFL Treasurer. If kicked out the LDFL, said coach cannot be a part of any team in the LDFL for the current playing season. No refunds are provided under any circumstance(s).

## **ARTICLE 17 - GAME RULES**

The LDFL will play all games in accordance with the rules of the National Football League (NFL) with a few modifications. Timing rules will be four 15-minute quarters. After an incomplete pass or player running out of bounds, the clock will be stopped temporarily until the referee spots the ball. He will then wind the clock. The only time the clock will be stopped for the above-mentioned occurrences is with under 2 minutes left in the 1st half and 5 minutes left in the 2nd half.

The LDFL will use the **COLLEGE OVERTIME RULE**. During the regular season the LDFL will follow College Overtime with a max of two (2) overtime quarters. During playoffs the LDFL will follow College Overtime with no cap on overtime quarters, but until a winner is decided.

- a. Preseason games do not count for league standings but will be reported to any of the national recording agencies. The LDFL holds its members to a higher standard regarding sportsmanship and violence. Because of this, we are very selective of the games that we accept with non-league members.
- b. Ideally all games are played on Saturday with NO game being played before noon unless agreed upon by both teams and reported to the LDFL Commissioner by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. of said scheduled game. If a team needs Sunday dates, they need approval of the LDFL Commissioner/Executive Board and the opponent prior to the game. Visiting teams have the right to request a change of venue should a Sunday game not be possible, but it will be at the expense of the original visiting team for venue and officials.
- c. Moderate end-zone celebrations will be allowed, however excessive celebration will be assessed a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the ensuing play.



- d. Fields must meet the requirements set forth in Article 12 – Expectations and be game day ready. Please refer to Article 18 – Fines, for more information.
- e. All fields must have a working scoreboard operated by a qualified attendant that will be synchronized with the time being held on the field by the officiating crew. There will be no running clocks in the LDFL. A running clock can be put in action if a team is down by 30 or more points. If that team comes back and is under a 30-point separation, the running clock stops and is back to regular game play timing.
- f. All team owners are responsible for cleaning up their sideline and locker rooms following a game. If any sideline, locker room, or area a team used is not cleaned up upon completion of the game, there will be a \$150.00 fine imposed. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$150.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary actions by the LDFL Commissioner. It is the host team's responsibility to provide visual/written/photographic/video documentation by Monday after said game.
- g. Home teams are responsible for payment of ALL officials. This includes pre-season, regular season, and play-off games if the LDFL has not voted to pay for play-off officials. **YOU MUST HAVE 5 FIELD OFFICIALS.**
- h. Each home team is responsible for providing a chain crew.
- i. The following are prohibited and are grounds for automatic expulsion for LDFL members, owners, coaches, team staff and/or players:
  - Possession of or under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or physical altering substances
  - Possession of drug paraphernalia, illegal or concealed weapons
  - The threat of using a gun on the premises of a game areLegal action may also be taken by the LDFL Commissioner.
- j. Fields without a fan designated area are required to establish a 25-yard barrier from the field. **FRIENDS AND FANS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ANY TEAMS' SIDELINE AT ANY TIME.**
- k. Players are never allowed to consort with any fans, friends, or family during the game regardless of the reason. Any player that is caught fraternizing with a fan during the game will receive an automatic 2-game suspension which is non-appealable.
- l. Play Off game day is Saturday. If the home team does not have a facility for the scheduled game, they must contact the LDFL as soon as possible. The visiting team will be given an opportunity to host if the home team cannot arrange a facility. This is only for in-state games. This excludes a change of venue in another state as this would put the original hosting team a traveling hardship. If the visiting team cannot arrange a facility to play on Saturday, then Sunday will be substituted at the home of the higher seed.



- m. **Game Delays:** In case of any emergency, there will be a 15-minute grace start time for home teams and a 30-minute grace start time for traveling teams provided a two (2) hour notice has been given.
- n. You must have the league minimum 20 players to start a game. there will be a 15-minute grace start time to meet the 20-player minimum for home teams and a 30-minute grace start time for traveling teams.
- o. **Delays and Postponements:** Postponements due to weather may be made up during a league bye week or if available a Sunday game may be played in place of a Saturday game if applicable. Any weather postponement must be approved by the LDFL Commissioner. If a game is delayed at the start of the third quarter and if there are no dates for conclusion of the game, then the score from the first half will count as the final score.
- p. **Halftime:** Halftime will consist of one 12-minute period. If a team is late causing a delay in start time, then the halftime will be reduced from 12 minutes to 10 minutes. No official has the right to reduce the time if a game is started when scheduled unless approved by the LDFL Commissioner only. For an overtime period there will be a 5-minute intermission period before the start of overtime.
- q. There are only four types of cancellations: National/Government issued closure/pandemic, weather related, critical accident related, and death related. All other forms of cancellations will be considered forfeits. Teams that petition for membership into the LDFL do so with the understanding that they must have flexibility when it comes to scheduling. Once a schedule is posted it is up to the teams to work out any scheduling concerns as soon as possible, no less than 2 weeks prior to the game. All solutions must be in writing to the LDFL Commissioner within 24 hours of the arrangement being made. Teams may only cancel a game in the event of a death or a serious accident to one of its members. You must contact the owner of the opposing team as well as the LDFL Commissioner. You must be able to show proof that such an event occurred. Failure to do so will result in your cancellation considered a forfeit as well as your immediate dismissal from the LDFL.
- r. Any representative of a team fighting shall be ejected from the game, removed from the property, and banned from the LDFL indefinitely. This includes playoff, championship, and all-star games as well as forfeit any awards that may have been granted to him/her for their performance. There are absolutely no appeals or bans regarding violence. Any player that is ejected from a game, the owner of that team must notify the LDFL Commissioner as soon as the game is over via e-mail with full names and description of the incident regarding all parties involved. No immediate decision will be rendered until all parties involved have been spoken with. All parties must be available no later than Noon on the Monday of the following week to provide as much information as possible. Failure to contact the LDFL Commissioner timely will result in the maximum punishment allowed. Any incident regarding accusations of violence will require game film from both teams. Failure to produce game film can result in a delay in the decision-making process. Any player that is ejected for excessive use of profanity or gratuitous use of racial slurs will be suspended for no less than 2 games. No appeal will be granted.
- s. If the ball is going towards out of bounds, and the player takes a knee out of bounds and downs the ball, the ball considered out of bounds.



- t. Extra point kicked from 15 if kicking, Extra point from the 2 if not kicking.
- u. For a competitive game, last 2 minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the game, the clock stops. If not competitive (losing by 30 or more points) the clock runs. Under 2 minutes – incomplete pass, spot ball, run clock.
- v. For targeting (defined as illegal helmet contact launched by a player) there will be a 15 yd penalty and ejection for 2 quarters (could be imposed to next game depending on what quarter incident happens). On the second offense player will be ejected for a full game. Also 2 personal fouls and player is ejected from game. All targeting and personal fouls will be reported to the LDFL Commissioner and LDFL President. It should also be reported to the Officials organization.
- w. Rules regarding games being stopped are as follows:
  - If an LDFL game is stopped by the Referees due to weather, it will be postponed to an alternate date.
  - If an LDFL game is stopped by the Referees due to BOTH teams' behavior or actions, the game will be counted as "No Contest "and the game will conclude with the score being recorded as 0-0 and both teams will be recorded with a Loss (L). Additionally, both teams will be ineligible for post-season play. An investigation will be held to look into the matter by the LDFL Board.
  - If an LDFL game is stopped by the Referees due to the Losing team's behavior or action (at time game is stopped), the game will conclude with the score being recorded at that point in time. An investigation will be held to look into the matter by the LDFL Board.

## **ARTICLE 18 - FINES**

The LDFL fines are as follows:

- a. LDFL Meetings - If an owner is unable to attend a meeting, they must notify the other members, 3 days in advance (if possible) and send a replacement representative. This replacement representative will have full voting powers on any voting required during meeting. If a replacement representative is not sent to the meeting, the owner will be fined \$250.00. The \$250.00 fine must be paid to the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of the missed meeting. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, they will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. All fees due to forfeit will apply and be enforced. No refunds are provided under any condition.
- b. Referees - The **LDFL** will fine any team \$300.00 that does not request and have 5 Referees at a game. The \$300.00 fine must be paid to the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. All fees due to forfeit will apply and be enforced. No refunds are provided under any condition.
- c. Game Agreements - Once a game agreement is signed by both owners, it is in effect. If a team is in violation of any of the above or anything included in the agreement, they would be fined \$100.00 payable to the owner of the team they are playing. The process for payment would be The LDFL Treasurer would initially pay the owner \$100.00 and the team in violation would



be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. All fees due to forfeit will apply and be enforced. No refunds are provided under any condition.

- d. **Player Misconduct** - Any player that has been removed from a team or league via the LDFL for any violation, cannot be on ANY team's sideline. If it is found that this action has occurred, the offending team will be fined \$200.00. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$200.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. All fees due to forfeit will apply and be enforced. No refunds are provided under any condition.
- e. **Owner/Coach Misconduct** - Any coach, owner, or staff of an LDFL team that has been ejected from a game for any reason such as disciplinary reasons, excessive profanity, unprofessional conduct, threats, threatening to fight, etc. will be fined \$250.00. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$250.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. Failure to pay the fine will result in an indefinite suspension and possible expulsion. Said coach cannot return until fine is paid to the LDFL Treasurer. If kicked out the LDFL, said coach cannot be a part of any team in the LDFL for the current playing season. No refunds are provided under any condition.
- f. **Field** – If a home team does not follow the requirements defined as a field in Article 12 – Expectations, there will be a \$100.00 fine imposed. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$100.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary actions by the LDFL Commissioner. It is the host team's responsibility to provide visual/written/photographic/video documentation by Monday after said game. No refunds are provided under any condition.
- g. **Unclean Field/Locker Room** - All team owners are responsible for cleaning up their sideline and locker rooms following a game. If any sideline, locker room, or area a team used is not cleaned up upon completion of the game, there will be a \$150.00 fine imposed. The process for payment would be the owner of the team in violation would be responsible to pay the LDFL Treasurer \$150.00 within 72 hours of said game. If the fine is not paid within 72 hours, the team will forfeit their next upcoming scheduled game and continue forfeiting games until the fee is paid. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary actions by the LDFL Commissioner. It is the host team's responsibility to provide visual/written/photographic/video documentation by Monday after said game. No refunds are provided under any condition.



**ADOPTION AND SIGNATURE**

*Bylaws verified and confirmed by LDFL Commissioner*

 <u>Jonathan Johnson (Dec 12, 2020 12:41 PST)</u>	Jonathan Johnson	Dec 12, 2020
LDFL Commissioner Signature	Jonathan Johnson	Date

*Bylaws certified by LDFL Executive Board of Directors as follows:*

 <u>Anna Lisa Acedo (Dec 12, 2020 13:02 PST)</u>	Anna Lisa Acedo	Dec 12, 2020
LDFL President Signature	Anna Lisa Acedo	Date

 <u>Minh Do (Dec 12, 2020 13:00 PST)</u>	Minh Do	Dec 12, 2020
LDFL Vice President Signature	Minh Do	Date

 <u>Mark Maloof (Dec 12, 2020 12:54 PST)</u>	Mark Maloof	Dec 12, 2020
LDFL Secretary Signature	Mark Maloof	Date

 <u>Michael Reardon (Dec 12, 2020 12:47 PST)</u>	Michael Reardon	Dec 12, 2020
LDFL Treasurer Signature	Michael Reardon	Date

# 2021 LDFL ByLaws - Final Revision

Final Audit Report

2020-12-12

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