

BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, LLC.

DBA BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, LLC.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES

BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Constitution

Written: June 2014 (Amended November 25, 2019)

BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

This group, being dedicated to the promotion of football programs and the education of youth accordingly in the formative years of school, do hereby constitute ourselves, future officials, and members of the organization as the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, and to enact this constitution as the governing law.

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - Membership

Membership shall be open to any person of good moral character, 25 years of age and over, interested in participating in and/or promoting the purpose of this organization.

A. Membership shall be by pre-registration only, with no individual fee required. Registration deadline shall be seven (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Prior to any vote, all Members present must be verified through a master list of Members by a designated Board member. All Members must be approved by the Commissioner and Board of Directors.

B. Members must live in the state of Texas. This is the only residence rule in the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, hereinafter ("BLFA").

C. Any qualified person may apply for membership in the BLFA at the following times and places:

1. Any scheduled meeting prior to the registration deadline
2. Online via the website with an application for membership submitted to the official league e-mail address and/or to the Commissioner.

D. Coaches who have signed the coaches' application and code of conduct forms, and have been approved by the BLFA board to serve on a team as a Head Coach or an assistant coach during the current season will, without further registration, hold membership in the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATION for the season in which they have been approved. Membership will expire for said Member at the completion of the BLFA season.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 - Board of Directors, Officers

A. Composition of the Board of Directors - Effective June 12, 2017 and for so long as this Agreement remains in effect (until amended or terminated as provided herein), Eric Aleman, Lenard Allen, John Jackson shall serve as members of the Board of Directors. Each Board Member shall vote and shall take all other necessary or appropriate actions in his or her capacity as a member of the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors shall take all necessary or reasonable actions to cause the Board of Directors to consist of no less than three (3) members. Each Board Member will continue to serve until they voluntarily resign their position on the Board or until they are involuntarily removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may at any time, with or without cause, by simple majority vote terminate any Board Member.

B. The Officers of this organization may be: Commissioner, League Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, and League Statistician.

C. Additional Officers may also include the Field Directors within the BLFA.

Section 2 - Terms of Office

The above Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, taking office on the day of election. The Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board members present at the annual meeting held for the election of officers.

Section 3 - Voting Procedures by the Board of Directors

A. To establish a quorum for a vote by the Board, 2/3 of the Board members shall be present.

B. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, By-Laws, or Standing Rules it shall require a majority vote of the Board Members in attendance to approve a motion.

Section 4 – Field Directors

A. There should be one (1) Field Director at each game location in the BLFA. The Field Director MAY be an active coach and he MUST be elected by a majority vote of the BLFA Board.

Section 5 - Board Appointments

The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies occurring between elections within thirty (30) days of the vacancies. The Board Appointments shall require a 2/3 vote of the quorum.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 - Duties of the Officers

COMMISSIONER: The Commissioner shall preside at all meetings of the Organization and the Board shall conduct the meetings according to the adopted rules. He shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner shall decide all questions of order and shall sign all official

documents approved by the Board. The Commissioner shall ensure that at least one (1) member of the Board is present at all league games. The Commissioner shall co-sign checks written against the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION account. The Commissioner shall perform other duties normally associated with the Office of the Commissioner.

LEAGUE DIRECTORS: The League Directors shall assume all duties of the Commissioner in the latter's absence. The League Directors shall co-sign checks in the absence of the Commissioner. He will be one of the two vote counters at any association meeting.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, read the communications, update all Coaches' Applications, e-mail all notices to Board Members, and notify the public by means of the local press when required. The Secretary will work in close association with the Treasurer and shall perform all other duties normally associated with the office, including recording of the vote count at all association meetings and announcing the margin of all votes after verifying the agreement of the counts.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds received by the Organization in regard to the operations of the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. The Treasurer will pay all bills and co-sign drafts drawn against the Organization, keep complete financial records covering receipts, expenditures, and balances. Present financial reports upon request. Make oral financial reports to the Board at regular and special called meetings and submit a written report of same to be made as part of the minutes. Have financial reports ready for the annual election of officers each year. This position will be one (1) of the two (2) vote counters at any association meeting. The Treasurer will submit to the Board a certified financial report within sixty (60) days from the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall work in close conjunction with a certified public accountant as designated by the Board.

LEAGUE STATISTICIAN: The League Statistician shall be responsible for collecting all scores for all games each week. Also, they will collect the referee's report for every game and the referee evaluation from all coaches. These documents shall be forwarded to the Website Administrator for updating the league website for all standings and copied to the League Secretary for verification purposes.

Section 2 - Duties of League Directors

A. The League Directors for each league shall be responsible for the communications of all information pertinent to the BLFA to their respective groups of coaches. They are also responsible for informing all members in their league of meetings they are required to attend. This notice will be sent to the Directors from the Board via e-mail and is required to be forwarded via e-mail prior to 48 hours before the meeting begins.

B. The League Directors shall represent the coaches in their respective league on all administrative and policy matters coming before the Board.

C. The League Directors shall perform all other duties designated by the By-Laws and/or Standing Rules.

Section 3 - Governing Body

The governing body of the Organization shall be the Board.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 - Procedures for Amendment to Constitution and By-Laws

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Board members present at any regular or special meeting of the Board. Notices of intent to amend, along with the proposed amendment, must be sent to all Board Members by e-mail. Members shall be notified by public announcement of the Board's intent to amend the Constitution and/or By-Laws. The public announcements shall state that said amendments may be reviewed during the thirty (30) day notice period at the BLFA website. All notices shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting in which a vote is actually taken.

Section 2 - Procedures for Amendment to Standing Rules

The Standing Rules as a day-to-day League operating guide shall be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Board. Notice of intent to amend, along with the proposed amendment, must be sent to all Board Members by e-mail. For an amendment to pass, a 2/3 "yes" vote is required.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 - Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings not covered by this Constitution, its By-Laws or Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 - Restatement of Purpose

The purpose of the Organization, as set out in the Charter, reads as follows: "The purpose, or purposes, for which the Corporation is organized are: To Organize, supervise, and promote the formation of football teams for students in the state of Texas; to arrange game schedules and establish rules governing the games, all for the purpose of developing an interest in athletics and to promote a sense of competition and good sportsmanship in the youth of the community."

In cases of unusual circumstances not specifically covered by the Standing Rules, (hardship cases and emergencies that may arise which tend to defeat or not promote the purposes of the organization) temporary adopted rules will be provided and shall remain in effect until acted upon at a meeting of the Members.

BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

By-Laws

Written: June 2014 (Amended November 25, 2019)

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at a time and place determined annually by the Board. Notice of meetings shall be sent to all members of the Board. Such notices will be e-mailed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Section 2 - Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Commissioner, or at the request of not less than three (3) members of the Board. Notice of special meetings including an agenda, shall be sent to all members of the Board. Such notices will be e-mailed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Only such business as appears in the notice may be transacted at that particular special meeting.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 - Committees

The Board shall determine the need for committees, both special and standing. The Commissioner shall appoint members of committees. They shall function for the period of time designated.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 - Disciplinary Hearing

Any organization Member who violates any provision of the Constitution, By-Laws, or Standing Rules may be dismissed or disciplined by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations of the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. Under no circumstances will children be permitted at such meetings. If a child is involved, he/she may have representation by an adult over twenty-one (21) years of age.

Section 2 - Use of Organization Name

Under no circumstances shall any Member of the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (Board Member, Coach or assistant Coach) use the name of the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION for any purpose without the express written approval of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 - Agenda for Annual Meeting

A. Roll Call B. Officers' Report C. Standing Committee Reports D. Commissioner (overview of year's activities) E. Ratify duly processed Amendments to Constitution (if any) F. Ratify duly processed Amendments to By-Laws (if any) G. Nomination and election of officers H. Introduction of the newly elected Board of Directors I. Adjournment by new Commissioner

Section 2 - Voting Procedure

The Secretary shall record the vote and announce the results of the vote. The total votes may not exceed the total number of registered voters present at the meeting. Vote shall be taken by show of hand as counted by the Treasurer and the League Directors or two (2) duly appointed Board Members.

The Commissioner's sole function shall be to direct the voting procedure. The vote count must agree between the two (2) counters before any results can be announced. If vote counts do not agree, the Commissioner will initiate a recount.

A nominated candidate may address the meeting on his behalf, and may be questioned by any Member present, concerning his/her qualifications. No discussion of the candidate may be initiated after the candidates leave the room for a vote. A nominee must be present to qualify as a candidate.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 - Coaches

A. All Head Coaches in the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION must be twenty-one (21) years of age and of good moral character. Any exception to the age requirement will require Board approval. All Head Coaches and all assistant coaches must apply to the league, and be approved, by the league in order to act in a coaching capacity with any team that competes in the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. The Board has full authority to reject any and all coaching applications at their absolute discretion.

B. The names of all assistant coaches and staff shall be submitted by the Head Coach to the Board for approval and listed on the second page of the official roster. There shall be a limit of 10 staff members to a team. This includes anyone who will serve on the sideline (ball boy, trainer, etc.) If this rule is abused, the Board can suspend the Head Coach.

C. A Head Coach or his assistant coach, representing their team, who misses a mandatory meeting, shall be subject to disciplinary action as defined in Article VI, Section 4 of the By- Laws.

D. All Head Coaches and assistant coaches must sign and have on file with the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Secretary, a Coaches Code of Conduct form prior to stepping on the field as a Coach. The Coaches Code of Conduct form, when signed, will become part of parcel of Article V, Section 1 of the By- Laws. All coaches are responsible for the actions of themselves, their assistant coaches, and fans. Any coach, fan, or player that is considered to be endangering children or anyone else around them, including officials, spectators, and opponents, verbally and/or physically shall be asked to leave the field and its surroundings by the referee. If the person refuses, the League Director, or a Board member shall take over immediately. This rule includes, but is not limited to, any and all foul or abusive language, racial slurs, threatening comments, etc. There will be no warning from the referee or the League Director, or Board member. This is a youth league and all participants and spectators should be treated with respect. Any ejections of non-participating personnel will be suspended for the remainder of the day's event on the first violation unless the controversy warrants further measures in which the Board can approve a termination of the offending person(s) from all BLFA events. The second violation of any offending person will be for the remainder of the season including the playoffs. Any coach ejection will result in a suspension for the remainder of the game being played and for the following game for the first ejection of the season. A second ejection will result in a suspension totaling the remainder of the season including playoffs and will require a MANDATORY meeting before the Board before reinstatement the following year. The same guidelines will be followed for all players in the BLFA as well as all registered staff members.

Section 2 – Organizations

Each organization operates on its own and the BLFA is not in control nor responsible for any financial problems or issues that might arise with each organization outside of the league fees due the BLFA. However, the BLFA does hold the right to evaluate all organizations and their financial obligations either directly or indirectly relating to the league and can make a decision to continue or terminate their affiliation with each organization on an as needed basis.

Every organization must make application to the BLFA for inclusion in league activities for that upcoming season. The application process will be determined by the Board each year and amended as necessary to account for the timing and depth needed to complete the evaluation process.

Organizations that apply to the BLFA, and/or operate within the BLFA, must field a team on at least one division/level beginning with the 2015 BLFA season. In the event an organization is unable to field a team at any level, they will be subject to removal from the BLFA by the Board and their decision will be considered final.

The Board will take reasonable steps to evaluate each organization based on several factors. The financial stability of the organization, the ability of the organization to provide a positive experience to its players and the ability of the administrators to comply with league rules and requirements are examples of the criteria utilized by the Board to evaluate an applying organization. In addition, ALL personnel involved in the organization, whether coaching, organizing, providing financial support, or administration will be evaluated as part of the application process. These factors may include but are not limited to: 1. Reputation 2. Training 3. Experience 4. References 5. Character

The Board will attempt to ascertain the quality of the organization as to how they will represent the BLFA to the community at large, and the likelihood of an organization providing a positive contributing influence on the league as a whole. The Board reserves the right to reject an application from an organization for any reason, without providing documentation or support for its decision. Such decisions will be made in the absolute discretion of the Board and will be considered final and may not be appealed.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 - Vote Required for Action

In accordance with Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws, the Board shall dismiss or discipline for cause any Board Member, Coach, or player by a 2/3 vote of the Board Members present at any official meeting.

Section 2 - Cause Defined

Cause shall be defined as a violation of any section of the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules, Coaches Agreement, Coaches Application, and/or the Code of Conduct.

Section 3 - Complaint Procedure

Procedure for filing a complaint against and discipline for a Member:

A. Any person or persons wishing to make a complaint to the Board shall reduce said complaints to writing. The written complaint shall be signed and shall specify the Association rule or rules violated and the time, date and location that violation occurred.

B. The Board shall set, in accordance with the rules and regulations, a meeting to review the written complaint. Both parties shall be present for said meeting. The Board may take any action provided for in this section. Disposition of the complaint shall be made by a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Section 4 - Disciplinary Actions

After a proper review, the Board may take any of the following actions deemed appropriate:

A. Find that the complaint has no basis.

B. Place a written reprimand in the Member's file.

C. Place a Member on probation for a specified period of time and subject the Member to further discipline for violation of the same or other rules.

D. Suspend the Member for a specified period of time not more than the balance of the current season.

E. Terminate the membership of the Member organization for a specified period of time to be not less than the balance of the current season.

Section 5 - Coach Appeal Procedure

Following the dismissal of a coach for a period of time no less than the balance of the current season the coach may request, through the Commissioner of the Board of Directors, a hearing by a mandatory meeting of all Head Coaches for the purpose of reinstatement as a coach in the league. The request to appear must be presented to the league Commissioner in writing before action will be taken.

A. To establish a quorum for a vote by the coaches for reinstatement, 2/3 of all Head Coaches shall be present.

B. To affect the reinstatement of a coach into the League, the vote of all Head Coaches present must be 2/3 in favor of reinstatement.

C. The request of an appeal hearing shall not be acted upon prior to the first regular meeting of the Board following the League's annual election of officers.

D. The action taken and decision reached at the appeal hearing shall be final and binding on all parties involved.

E. Should a 2/3 majority of all Head Coaches not be present, the appeal hearing shall be rescheduled until such 2/3 majority is present.

BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Standing Rules

Written: June 2014 (Amended November 25, 2019)

STANDING RULES

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - Order of Business (Regular Meetings)

A. Roll Call B. Reading of Minutes of previous meeting C. Treasurer's Report D. Report of Committees E. Unfinished Business: 1. Information Items 2. Action Items - Executive Session Only F. New Business 1. Information Items G. Adjournment

Section 2 - Procedure for Handling Regular Meetings

A. Agenda

It shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner to prepare an agenda for each regular meeting. Under old business, the Commissioner shall list separately as action items, any other business to be discussed by the Board. The Commissioner shall also list separately, as information items, any new business to be discussed by the Board. The Commissioner shall have the agenda posted for review by Members not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the roll call.

B. Official Votes of the Board

Except as otherwise stated in this Article, the Board shall not vote on any item not specifically listed on the agenda as an action item.

1. The Commissioner shall cast a vote only in the event of a tie vote among Board members present, unless he or she wishes to abstain.

C. Emergency Items and Votes

Any item requiring a vote by the Board and not listed on the agenda as required in this Article may be placed on the agenda by a 2/3 vote of the Board Members present. The item, if placed on the agenda, shall require a majority vote of the Board to pass.

D. Other Business

Any items pertinent to the conduct of the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION may be brought up and discussed under New Business. A Board Member may introduce new Business from the floor. A member of the Board can, by majority vote, direct the Commissioner to place an item on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 - Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year shall be from Jan 1st through Dec 30th.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 - Eligibility Rules for Applicable Divisions

A. Divisions

1. Infantry Division – Players participating in this division are 8u. The age determination date is August 1st of the previous fall season. (I.e. if it is Spring 2020 and your player is 8 on or before 8/1/2019, they are eligible). If the player turns 9 before August 1 of the previous calendar year, they will be ineligible to play on the Infantry division but can play on the Freshman division.

2. Freshman Division - Players participating in this division are 10u. The age determination date is August 1st of the previous fall season. (I.e. if it is Spring 2020 and your player is 10 on or before 8/1/2019, they are eligible). If the player turns 11 before August 1 of the previous calendar year, they will be ineligible to play on the Freshman division but can play on the Sophomore division.

3. Sophomore Division – Players participating in this division are 11u. The age determination date is August 1st of the previous fall season. (I.e. if it is Spring 2020 and your player is 11 on or before 8/1/2019 they are eligible). If the player turns 12 before August 1 of the previous calendar year, they will be ineligible to play on the Sophomore division but can play on the Junior Varsity division.

IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SOPHOMORE TEAMS, THEN THOSE TEAMS WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO PLAY IN THE JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION.

4. Junior Varsity Division – Players participating in this division are 12u. The age determination date is August 1st of the previous fall season. (I.e. if it is Spring 2020 and your player is 12 on or before 8/1/2019 they are eligible). If the player turns 13 before August 1 of the previous calendar year, they will be ineligible to play on the Junior Varsity division but can play on the Varsity division.

5. Varsity Division - Players participating in this division must be in the 8th grade throughout the state of Texas and must not be fifteen (15) years of age on or before the 1st day of September of the previous calendar year. (If the player turns 15 on or before September 1 of the previous calendar year, they will be ineligible to play in the BIG League Football Association). No student currently enrolled in High School may be permitted to participate in the BLFA, regardless of age.

Every player must be certified in person prior to the deadline, be included on an official roster, and have presented their State ID (age) or original birth certificate and original grade report/school ID (8th Grade) before they can participate in their first game.

B. The Penalty for violation of Section 1, Eligibility Rules for Applicable Leagues:

If the applicable age provisions are violated and verified by the Board, then the violation will constitute the forfeiture of the games in question. If any provision of Article III.A.1, 2 or 3 is violated and verified by the Board, then the violation will subject the team, player and/or coach to appropriate discipline as determined by the Board, including but not limited to dismissal, suspension or forfeiture of games (See Article IV, Section 2 - Protests).

C The BLFA does not place any restrictions on timelines for practices throughout the year. The BLFA does request that teams work within the UIL guidelines to eliminate any confusion about the school eligibility of each participant. The BLFA does not wish to have any player's future damaged by the actions of anyone in this league.

D. Any team not appearing for a game, failing to field eleven (11) eligible players, or otherwise not ready for play within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, will forfeit the game. Any organization that does not field a team for a schedule game will be fined \$500 by the league, per occurrence. This payment must be made within 2 business days of the forfeiture occurrence. Failure to make this payment will be grounds for further disciplinary action to be determined by the Board.

Section 2 - Player Exceptions

A. A player may play up into an older age group from the one their age and grade would have them playing.

B. There will be no exceptions for players that are too old for the grade level in which they attend school. They **MUST** play in the grade level that would make them legal for “age” purposes.

Section 3 – League Registration

League registration is the process of validating players and coaches for the upcoming season. The Board has the right to deny registration of any player or staff member, in its sole and absolute discretion. Furthermore, the Board may remove a player, staff member or coach from any team at any time throughout season if the Board deems the removal is in the best interest of the BLFA. EVERY player and staff member of each team **MUST** go through registration for certification and to obtain a picture ID for league use. The league will announce a “CUTOFF DATE” for your official roster. There are no changes than can be made to your roster or staff after this date. The only roster changes that may occur after the Cutoff Date involve a player changing from one level to another level within their organization. Up until the 1st regular season game, a player who is listed on the Varsity roster of an organization, but is eligible to play at the JV level, may move down from Varsity to JV. The same rule applies if a player is listed on the JV roster and wishes to move up to the Varsity roster. All normal eligibility rules apply. **NO INTERSQUAD CHANGES TO A TEAMS ROSTER MAY BE MADE AFTER MIDNIGHT THE DAY PRECEDING THE 1st REGULAR SEASON GAME.** Violations of this rule will be treated the same as all other eligibility infractions.

If a player or a member of the staff for a team is listed on the official roster, but is not at registration, they will have the 7 days following registration to complete the process or they will not be allowed to participate in the BLFA. **NO STAFF OR PLAYERS MAY BE REGISTERED AFTER 8 PM THE DAY BEFORE THE 1st REGULAR SEASON GAME!**

A. Registration Schedule – the day of registration will be determined during the annual meeting of the BLFA Board and will be posted. All teams will be notified when sign-ups begin for time slots to bring your team to registration.

B. Registration Notebook – (optional beginning 2017 season) needs to be brought to registration containing all necessary documents for registration. Without this documentation, your team will not be allowed to register. a. Official Roster – 2 copies completely filled out with all information. The file must be completed and provided to the league **NO LATER** than the day **PRIOR** to registration. Again, no changes can be made to the roster after the Cutoff date. b. Birth Certificate – (Original and copy) Without providing the original birth certificate to the League, a player may not play. It is suggested that parents

of players attend the registration as well to clear up any issues of a player's age that may arise. It is not necessary for a returning, fully registered, player to provide their original birth certificate. If a player is returning to the league after registering in a prior year, they must be clearly marked as a returning player. c. Grade Report – (Original and copy) If your school does not let you keep the grade report each grading period, ask the school for a copy. It must be clear and legible. d. School ID – IF the school a player attends issues a student ID, a copy of that student ID must be in the Registration Notebook. That player MUST present the valid student ID at registration. If the school the player attends does not issue a student ID, that player must bring a school yearbook that shows their picture and corresponding grade level. e. BLFA Liability Waiver and Parent Consent Form/Parent Contract – If the player's registration was not completed online and these forms were not electronically signed online, this form should be downloaded from the BLFA website and shall be completed by the parents or legal guardian for every player.

C. League Registration Payments- a. All Teams must provide for the payment of the League Team Fee directly to the League in an amount and by the deadline determined annually by the Board. b. All Players must pay the League Fee in an amount and by the deadline determined annually by the Board. If a Player has not paid their League Fee, they will not be allowed to participate in any League activities. c. All Staff Members, whether they are Coaches, Cheerleaders or Sideline Staff must pay the League Fee in an amount and by the deadline determined annually by the Board. If a Staff Member has not paid their League Fee, they will not be allowed to participate in any League activities.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 - Playing Rules

Playing rules are to be the same as the NCAA rules except as noted in the following sections.

A. OFFICIATING - There will be three (3) certified officials for each game with at least one (1) year of experience. No official may call a game in which they have any children, or relatives, involved. Games may be played with less than 3 officials, if deemed necessary by League Officials, but in no event will a game be played with less than 2 officials, without the express permission of a League Official and the Head Coaches of both teams involved.

B. Game Day Check In Procedures – Every team MUST be checked in by the Field Director on duty, or their assignee. Each team must be prepared to be checked in at least 10 minutes before the scheduled game start time. To be prepared for check in means all players must be lined up in alphabetical order, with their helmets OFF. If a team is in the middle of warm ups and the assigned check in person arrives, they must IMMEDIATELY cease their warm up activities and line up with the greatest of speed. a. All players must step up the field director when indicated to do so and look the director in the eyes and give their full name, first then last, and wait to be verified in the player book against the photo and information in the book. Once instructed to do so, the players' then step to the side indicated away from the players' line. b. Once a player has been checked in they may NOT leave the playing premises until the game begins. All trips to the restroom etc. should be done BEFORE check in. c. If a player arrives after check in has been completed for their team, they must report to the Field Director on duty and be checked in. IF the Field Director can accomplish their check in before the game starts, as defined by the opening kickoff, then they may play the entire game. IF the Field Director is not able to check them in before the game starts, the player may NOT play the entire first half of the game but may play in the

second half. There are no exceptions permissible. d. If a player arrives after the start of the third quarter, as defined by the kickoff of the second half, they may NOT play the entire game. There are no exceptions permissible.

C. GAME TIMES – Games will be played at the time scheduled unless the game before it finishes early or late. If the previous game finishes early, each game will start 10 minutes after the completion of the previous game. However, no game will be permitted to start more than fifteen (15) minutes before it is scheduled. If the previous game finishes late, the next game will start immediately. Teams must be ready to play no later than thirty (30) minutes before their scheduled game time.

D. GAME LENGTH – All divisions will play seven (8) minute quarters. Half time will be five (5) minutes unless specified differently by League Officials to accommodate the league schedule. Game Clocks – the field clock shall be considered official time when available; otherwise, the time shall be kept by one of the Officials, and it shall be considered official time. The clock will run in the same fashion as established by the UIL for Texas High School Football games except for the “hot clock” rule. If a team is ahead by 25 or more points, the clock becomes “hot” and will begin running until:

- i. A timeout is taken by the losing team

- ii. An official’s timeout

- iii. A score by the trailing team

- iv. A quarter or half ends In all of the above cases, the clock will become “hot” again once the ball is put into play. If the team that is behind can reduce the differential to less than 25 points, the clock will no longer be “hot” until the 25-point margin is again reached.

E. OVERTIME – In the event a game is tied at the end of regulation during the regular season, the BLFA will employ the NCAA overtime. During the playoffs, if overtime is needed, the same procedure will be used. The ball is placed on the 25-yard line and each team will receive one timeout per overtime period. A coin flip will be used to determine who has the first option to start the overtime. The opposing team will have the first option for the second period if it is needed. The option will continue to flip from one team to the other until there is a winner. After the first overtime, if there is still a tie, the ball will be moved forward 5 yards to the 20-yard line for each team. The process will be continued in 5 yard increments at the end of each successive tied overtime period until a winner is determined, or until the ball reaches a starting point of the 10 yard line. At no time, other than by penalty, will the ball start an overtime possession inside the 10 yard line. THERE WILL BE NO TIES IN THE REGULAR SEASON OR POST-SEASON.

F. EXTRA POINTS – one point for run or pass. Two points for a kick.

G. GAME CREW

a. Chain Crew – will be furnished by the visiting team in all BLFA games and chains will be kept on the visiting team sideline. Each member of the chain crew MUST be 18 years or older. A chain crew member may be used that is below the age of 18 ONLY if mutually agreed upon by the opposing Head Coach and ONLY if that person is on a roster of that organization. It is the team’s responsibility to find 3 adults to run the chains. Three (3) and only three (3) people may operate chains and down markers at one time. There will be no smoking or use of any tobacco products by the chain crew. There will be no coaching

from the chain crew. If at the determination of the Board this rule is consistently being violated by a particular chain crew member that person could be suspended from acting as a member of the chain crew for future games. This suspension may not be appealed. Chain gang members are Officials of the game. They must not: i. Question a referee's call. ii. Hinder or harass referees, players or fans. iii. Coach any player on his or the opposing team.

b. Scorekeeper – The Visiting team is required to provide a scorekeeper for their game, unless provided by the League. The scorekeeper MUST be 18 years or older and must report to the press box at least 30 minutes before the scheduled game time.

c. Announcer – The Home team is required to provide an announcer for their game, unless provided by the League. The scorekeeper MUST be 18 years or older and must report to the press box at least 30 minutes before the scheduled game time.

d. Sideline Personnel – Restrictions will be strictly enforced on all people that are on the sidelines for all teams. All unapproved personnel will be asked to leave the field immediately. To eliminate confusion, any person a team would like to be on the sideline needs to be on the official roster listed as a player or on the staff page of the roster. ALL approved staff will be issued a BLFA PASS to be worn at ALL BLFA games or that person will not be allowed to be on the field. Exceptions may be made on an as needed basis and must be approved by the League Officials. Any unapproved person on a team's sideline will be asked to leave immediately or a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will be assessed to their team. If they do not leave after the penalty, a forfeit will be declared.

Section 2 - Protests

ALL protests must first be made to the Head Referee at the point of the game in which the offense takes place. The Head Referee will then immediately stop the game and notify the League Official in charge that the game is being played "under protest". This declaration of protest will only proceed if the coach puts up a \$50 protest fee in CASH immediately before play resumes. The League Official will notify the PA announcer for the public announcement of the protest. Upon the completion of the game the team desiring to protest must file in writing to the Commissioner or League Directors within forty-eight (48) hours after completion of the protested game. If mailed, protests must be postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the game under protest. If the protest is found to be valid, the fee will be refunded and the league will rule accordingly. If the protest is found to be not valid, the fee will be kept by the league and put toward the general BLFA fund.

This process is for any action that cannot be solved at the time of the action in question. The BLFA will attempt to handle all problems on the field at the time they occur.

Section 3 - Equipment

A. All players participating in tackle football are required to have good quality regulation equipment consisting of a good helmet, shoulder pads, hip pads, butt pad, thigh pads, knee pads, and mouth piece.

1. The helmet shall be (NOC-SAE) approved. Stick-on decals and numbers shall be permitted.
2. Game jerseys must be identical and shall be worn by all players and must be worn in all regulation games. A player's game pants shall be consistent with teammate's pants.

B. All coaches must wear suitable attire reflecting team colors including coaching shirts. In order to be permitted on the sideline all Staff Members must wear a closed toe shoes, appropriate shorts or slacks and if wearing a hat, it must be facing forward as it was designed to be worn. No coaches or staff members will be permitted on the sideline of an BLFA event if they are wearing open toed shoes, jeans, jean shorts, hats tilted to the side, worn sideways or backwards, or other attire that would be deemed as inappropriate for a role model to young men.

Section 4 - Conduct

All Board Members and Coaches shall fulfill the responsibilities generally associated with this position in the League, as outlined in the Coaches Agreement and Code of Conduct. All Members of the Board, Coaches and Players should conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Failure to comply with rules and regulations of this Association will result in prompt and appropriate disciplinary action.

All Coaches, Staff Members and Players must refrain from using profanity on the field or on the sideline. The game officials will be responsible for monitoring the use of profanity and will be instructed to penalize outbursts as they occur. The same rules that apply for a sideline warning will be used. The first occurrence of profanity, whether directed at a player, official, staff member, or simply stated out loud, will be warned with a penalty flag. All subsequent occurrences will result in a penalty for that team. In the event that a single Player, Coach or Staff Member incurs a third penalty, that individual will be removed from the premises. All Coaches and Players must show sportsmanship after their games in the center of the playing field.

If a player is ejected from a game during the first half of play, for any reason, they will not be permitted to play the remainder of that game and they may not participate in the first half of the following game. If a player is ejected from a game during the second half of play, for any reason, they will not be permitted to play the remainder of that game and they may not participate in the ENTIRE following game. Anytime a player is not permitted to play in a game, they may be on the sidelines with their teammates but MUST have their helmet and shoulder pads off. The Field Director on duty, League officials, and the officiating crew have the right to remove a player from the sideline completely if they deem necessary, for any reason, and their decision is final. The League may increase the penalty for an ejection if it deems necessary for any reason and the decision is final. If a player is ejected a second time during the same season, for any reason, they will no longer be permitted to participate in BLFA activities.

If a coach, or any adult who is present on the team's sideline, is ejected from a game for any reason they must leave the premises immediately. This means they may not remain on the sideline, in the stands or in the parking lot. They must leave the entire premises and refusal to do will be considered criminal trespass. Further, they may not be present on the premises for the ENTIRE following game. Any coach who is ejected from a game will be required to be present for a disciplinary hearing the week following the ejection. The League may increase the penalty for an ejection if it deems necessary for any reason and the decision is final. If a coach, or any adult who is present on the team's sideline, is ejected a second time during the same season, for any reason, they will no longer be permitted to participate in BLFA activities.

Spectators should conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Sportsmanship must be shown to fans of the other teams. The Head Coach is directly responsible for the behavior of the fans for

his team. If a spectator is ejected from a game for any reason they must leave the premises immediately. This means they may not remain in the stands or in the parking lot. They must leave the entire premises and refusal to do will be considered criminal trespass. Further, they may not be present on the premises for the ENTIRE following game. If a spectator is ejected a second time during the same season, for any reason, they will no longer be permitted to be present at any BLFA activities.

The Board has the right to prohibit an organization from accepting sponsorship from any individual or entity, in its sole and absolute discretion.

Teams are forbidden from using the BLFA Logo, name, or brand in any way without the express written permission of the BLFA. Teams, and the staff members of teams, are forbidden from selling goods or services to any player, parent, spectator who is present at a BLFA event, or involved with a BLFA team, without the express written permission of the BLFA.

All teams are prohibited from making any payment of valuable consideration to a player, either for participation in or as an incentive to participate in any game (valuable consideration includes money and items which are wearable, usable, or saleable). This rule shall not prohibit the awarding of symbolic awards to players.

No photographers will be permitted on the sideline other than the BLFA sanctioned photographer for each game location. Photographs may be taken from the stands but may not be sold to BLFA players, parents or coaches without the express, written permission of the BLFA.

Each team is permitted to have one videographer at their game. The videographer must be located behind the end zone and beyond the goal post. One person and only one person is permitted.

Section 5 - Sidelines

All players must be a member of a team's roster, which has been turned into the BLFA League Office before participating in any sanctioned events.

A team is limited to no more than 10 staff members on the sideline. Anyone who is going to be on the sideline MUST be on the team's roster and have paid their \$37 fee to the league for their background check and been registered as a staff member of the team. This includes all assistant coaches, water boy's etc. There will be no exceptions.

Section 6 - Field Conditions and Weather

The Field Director on duty will decide whether or not the field and weather conditions are suitable for play. In the event a game is called off or stopped by the Officials, Field Director or Board Member, the game may be rescheduled and played as a separate game. Any game already in progress that is stopped will resume at the point in which it was stopped. The referee and the League Official on site will notate all necessities at the time of stoppage. In the event a game is stopped after the start of the third quarter, the game will NOT be replayed and the score at the time of the stoppage will determine the winner. In the event that results in a tie game, the game will be recorded as a tie.

Section 7 - Footballs

A. The football size will be different in each age group of the BLFA. The Junior Varsity division will be required to use the middle school sized ball (PRO5 Youth or Wilson TDY type or their equivalent). The Varsity division must use the High School ball, as defined by the UIL. Sophomore, Freshman will be required to use the Junior (Wilson TDJ or the equivalent) sized ball. Infantry will be required to use the Pee Wee or Junior (or equivalent) sized ball.

Section 8 - Officials

Adult officials will be paid to officiate the league games at a fee determined, through negotiations with the Officials, by the Board prior to each season.

Section 9 - Times of Regularly Scheduled Games

A. Dates and starting times of all games shall be set by the Board prior to each season.

B. Make-up games may be rescheduled by the Board as required.

Section 10 - Non-League Competition

It is prohibited for a team or player to participate in a padded football game or scrimmage with, or against, a non-BLFA member team during the BLFA Season, unless that event is sanctioned by the BLFA. The BLFA Season begins the first day of February and ends the weekend of the State Championship. Participation at any time in activities outside of the BLFA will not be covered under the boundaries of the BLFA and therefore is not covered by the insurance. Participation by a team or player in a non-BLFA event during the BLFA Season will result in a hearing and possible suspension from the BLFA. Any participation by a player on a team other than the team the player is registered with in a BLFA sanctioned event will result in a hearing and possible suspension from the BLFA. This will not include any player playing up an age division with their own organization. Players may play in an older age group for their team in the BLFA. However, by playing up, the player has now willfully put himself or herself on that team's roster for any future BLFA sanctioned events in that year.

Section 11 – Season Structure

A. PRE-SEASON

1. The pre-season may consist of an all-day event that will incorporate all teams playing in mini-scrimmages with other teams in their league. If the league chooses to conduct this event, it may be done on the Saturday one (1) week before the start of the regular season. A schedule will be completed and sent to all teams as soon as team registration is complete. The schedule will also be posted on the league website to allow complete access by all players, parents, and coaches. 2. There may be a minimal charge to all people not listed as participants or staff. This fee will be used to pay for the use of the stadium and the referees' fees for this particular day and the balance will be deposited to the league for any other necessary costs. No team may profit or benefit from the proceeds of this event. 3. No organization may host multi-team scrimmages. An organization may arrange a single scrimmage against one other BLFA organization as long as the organizations utilize TASO member officials that have been scheduled by the BLFA Director of Officials.

B. REGULAR SEASON

1. The regular season will be comprised of either five or six games and may be played in consecutive weeks. All teams must be ready and prepared to play even during Spring Break or on any other holiday that may occur during the BLFA season.
2. The number of teams in each division will determine the format for the regular season schedule. If there are less than seven (7) teams in a division, teams MAY play some teams more than once to fill the schedule.
3. REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS shall be determined by the following procedure and should include only games listed as division games: a. Won/loss percentage in regular season games listed as division games; b. If two (2) teams have identical won/loss percentages, the team that won the regular season game between the two shall have the higher standing. If the teams are still tied then the team that has allowed the least number of points will have the higher standing. If the teams are still tied then the standings shall be determined by a coin flip. c. If more than two (2) teams have identical won/loss percentages then the team that has allowed the least number of points will be have the higher standing. If all teams are still tied, then the standings shall be determined by a coin flip.

C. POST-SEASON

1. The format of the post-season will be a single-elimination playoff with at least the top 4 teams in each age group advancing. The regular season standings will be used to seed teams for the semi-finals. The first semi-final will be the #1 seed playing the lowest seed that has advanced to the semi-finals. The other semi-final will be comprised of the other two teams that have advanced to the semi-finals. If there are more than 4 teams qualifying for the playoffs, the bracket will be adjusted accordingly.
2. The winners of the semi-finals will proceed to the Championship game the following weekend.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 - Selection of Coaches

- A. The BLFA may accept applications for coaches and teams until March 1 of each year. At this time, the initial deposit would need to be filed with the team's application for entry to the league.
- B. The applications shall be designed to reflect the qualifications of the applicant. The application, when completed, shall show the number of years of coaching experience with the names and dates of the teams coached, and number of years of playing experience with the names and dates of the teams for which the applicant played.
- C. Based on the information available, the Board shall determine the applicant's qualifications.
- D. In examining the applicant's qualifications, the Board may call the applicant for a personal interview. In addition, the Board may, for purposes of determining the applicant's qualifications, request assistance from qualified persons from outside the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.
- E. All Head Coaches, assistant coaches, administrative personnel, and organizational leadership must be approved by the league in order to act in an official capacity with any team that competes in the BIG LEAGUE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. The Board has full authority to reject any and all applications in their absolute discretion.

Section 2 – Outline of the Legal Responsibilities of Participants (this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of Legal Requirements)

Texas Criminal Statutes regarding interaction on the field or court of play with an Umpire or Referee

§ 22.01. ASSAULT. (a) A person commits an offense if the person: (1) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another, including the person's spouse; (2) intentionally or knowingly threatens another with imminent bodily injury, including the person's spouse; or (3) intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with another when the person knows or should reasonably believe that the other will regard the contact as offensive or provocative.

* * *

(c) An offense under Subsection (a) (1) (2) or (3) is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the offense is:

* * *

(2) a Class B misdemeanor if the offense is committed by a person who is not a sports participant against a person the actor knows is a sports participant either: (A) while the participant is performing duties or responsibilities in the participant's capacity as a sports participant; or (B) in retaliation for or on account of the participant's performance of a duty or responsibility within the participant's capacity as a sports participant.

(3) "Sports participant" means a person who participates in any official capacity with respect to an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or other organized amateur or professional athletic competition and includes an athlete, referee, umpire, linesman, coach, instructor, administrator, or staff member.

§ 42.01. DISORDERLY CONDUCT. (a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly: (1) uses abusive, indecent, profane, or vulgar language in a public place, and the language by its very utterance tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace; or (2) makes an offensive gesture or display in a public place, and the gesture or display tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace;