

DUBLIN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION, RULES, REGULATIONS, & BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1 – Organization Name

The name of the organization shall be the Dublin Football League, Inc. (further known as “DFL” for reference in this document and all other official documents and logos of the organization)

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1 - Objectives

The objectives of the organization are:

- To give every eligible youth in the Dublin School District the opportunity to participate in organized football.
- To surround these activities with such safeguards as to warrant confidence in the integrity and administration of the DFL
- To protect and promote the mutual interests of the athletic teams and youth participants.
- To educate the Dublin Youth in the proper moral, mental, and physical values so that they may become assets to the community.
- To promote intelligent instruction and training in the various football endeavors. Good sportsmanship shall be a prime consideration at all times.
- To protect the youth participant, with adult attitude toward his/her safety. When any player is hurt and is down, the play will stop. Coaches and officials will attend to the injured player first.

ARTICLE III – RIGHTS, POWERS, AND AUTHORITY

SECTION 1 – Governing Body

The DFL organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors.

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SECTION 2 - Membership

Members of the organization consist of parents/guardians of the players, coaches, players, board members, and committee heads.

SECTION 3 – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President (Director of League Operations), Secretary (Director of Registration), Treasurer, Senior League Commissioner, Junior League Commissioner, Flag League Commissioner, and two Chairmen to head key initiatives for the year. The latter two are Board appointed positions and will be decided on after the new Board takes office each year. Head Coaches are Voting Members but do not serve on the Board.

SECTION 4 – Board Terms

All members of the Board of Directors shall be nominated to one-year terms at the regular meeting held in December. The slate of officer candidates will be nominated by voting members of the DFL. The voting members of the DFL will then vote on the slate of officers at the next monthly meeting.

SECTION 5 – Amendments or Changes

Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by the Board of Directors. Passage of the amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of all members in attendance.

SECTION 6 - Motions

The Voting Members of the DFL will meet monthly and act on all items brought before said members. A majority of the voting members in attendance will be required for passage of any motions presented, and subject to Board of Directors approval.

SECTION 7 – Board Vacancy

The Board of Directors shall have the right and authorization to elect replacements to fill any vacancy in the Board of Directors caused by the resignation, removal, total disability, or death of any member of the Board. The term of said appointed member will end with all board members terms at the next Board of Directors election.

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ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS, QUORUMS

SECTION 1 – Board Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet monthly and discuss all business and agenda items amongst the Officers, Chairman, and applicable Committee Heads. This meeting must take place prior to the Monthly Membership Meeting.

SECTION 2 – Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors and membership may be held at any time at the discretion of the President or upon written request of no fewer than 10 Voting Members of the organization.

SECTION 3 – Monthly Membership Meetings

Monthly Membership Meetings will be held and all members of the organization are encouraged to attend. The time and dates are posted on the DFL website under the Calendar of Events. Members not on the Board will be heard after the complete agenda has been discussed. No outside individuals or representatives can speak at the monthly membership meetings, unless he/she is on the agenda and members of the Board have been informed of the information and content to be presented.

SECTION 4 – Membership Quorum

There shall be no quorum required at legal meetings held by the membership, however, said meetings must take place at any of the normally scheduled monthly meetings where the Board is represented, and the motion must be part of the agenda.

SECTION 5 – Board Quorum

There shall be 50% plus 1 for a quorum requirement for meetings of the Board. All decisions shall be made by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board Members present at said meeting.

SECTION 6 – Meeting Order

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Roberts Rules of Order

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ARTICLE V – TAX CODE

SECTION 1A – Tax Status

The Dublin Football League, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes. Including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as Exempt Organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of the future federal tax code.

SECTION 1B – Tax Code Adherence

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons. Except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) an organization exempt from the federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the DFL is located, exclusively for such purposes, or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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Rules, Regulations, & Bylaws:

ARTICLE I – COACHING CRITERIA

SECTION 1 – Coach Attendance

Each Head Coach or his authorized representative must attend the scheduled meetings and clinics, or contact the Director of League Operations to be excused prior to the meeting. If the Head Coach or authorized representative misses a mandatory meeting, the Head Coach may be suspended until the requirements are met for reinstatement.

SECTION 2 – Coach Certification

All coaches must be registered and certified with the National Youth Sports Coaching Alliance, further known as the NYSCA. Coaches must complete at least one (1) certification course on the web based program found at www.nays.org and must be re-certified in subsequent years. Prospective Head Coaches will not be awarded a team if they do not meet the above criteria before the DFL Draft date.

SECTION 3 – Coach Background Screening

All coaches are subject to a Background Screening check performed by the NYSCA approved affiliate. The DFL has adopted the NYSCA guidelines for Youth Sports Volunteer Background Checks and has implemented the “Nine Step Background Check Process” outlined in their document.

SECTION 4 – Coach Conduct and Ethics

The DFL has adopted the NYSCA Code of Ethics, and we require our coaches to abide by these guidelines. All coaches will sign a “Code of Ethics” as part of the certification process. The Participation & Conduct section below has more detailed information regarding expectations and standards.

SECTION 5 – Coach Selection

Coach Selection is a subjective process that occurs during the off-season every year. Some of the criteria considered are, but are not limited to; Tenure in the League, Performance/Competence as a Coach, Participation in Events, Participation on Committees, time served on the Board, Attendance at Monthly Membership Meetings. Prospective Coaches will give an indication of interest to the membership verbally, or to the Board through electronic communication, and the list will be compiled by the Secretary. Head Coaches will then be considered and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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ARTICLE II – PARTICIPATION and CONDUCT

SECTION 1 – Player Eligibility

Eligible players participating in the Dublin Football League are considered those living in the Dublin City School District and are in first through sixth grade. Players from other communities and grade levels will be considered if requested. These players must be approved by the Board.

SECTION 2 – Player Forms

All players must have on file with the Director of League Operations, a signed permission to play form, a physical examination form, and have paid the registration fee prior to participating in any practice or game.

SECTION 3 – Conduct

There shall be no improper language, conduct, or actions on the part of the coaches, officials, spectators, or players in the process of conducting games, pre-game activities, or practice sessions.

SECTION 4 – Player Equipment

All players must wear protective gear at all times when engaged in contact play, including practice sessions. This shall include helmet, shoulder pads, hip pads, colored mouth guard, and football pants with proper knee and thigh pads. Athletic supporters with cup are strongly recommended.

SECTION 5 – Playing Time

All active players on a team have a starting position on offense or defense, and shall participate on the playing field for at least half of the total game. Any flagrant misuse of this rule will mean immediate disciplinary action against the coach. Any restriction in standard playing time requires the approval of the parent, Head Coach, League Commissioner, and Director of League Operations.

SECTION 6 – Coach Contact

Coaches are not to engage in any extensive physical contact with their players

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SECTION 7 – Verbal Engagement

Arguing with, or verbal abuse of the officials, players, fans, or other coaches will not be tolerated. Violation of this rule could result in dismissal of the coach.

SECTION 8 – Sideline Coach Limit

No one is allowed on the playing field or team bench unless directly involved in the game, or are requested by the Director of League Operations. The maximum number of coaches on the sidelines is four (4). At halftime, help from the parents may be used to assist with refreshments and gear. At the conclusion of the game, each team will shake hands and leave the field of play.

SECTION 9 – Field of Play

Only authorized coaches, players, officials, and representatives of the DFL Board are allowed on the field of play. Anyone else entering the field of play will be asked to leave the premises. Flagrant abuse of this rule will constitute a ban from DFL events for the remainder of the season.

SECTION 10 – Ejection from Game

If a coach is ejected from a game, he must leave the premises or the game is forfeited. After a meeting by the Board of Directors to review the incident, disciplinary action will be considered and imposed.

ARTICLE III – GENERAL

SECTION 1A – Senior League Player Restriction

The Senior League will be for players that are entering the 5th and 6th grades. Players with an official weight of 110 pounds and lighter will be eligible to be running backs or receivers.

SECTION 1B – Junior League Player Restriction

The Junior League is for players that are entering the 3rd and 4th grades. Players with an official weight of 85 pounds and lighter are eligible to be running backs or receivers. Players with more than two (2) years of tackle football experience within the DFL are not eligible for the Junior League.

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SECTION 1C – Flag League Player Restriction

The Flag League is for players that are entering the 1st and 2nd grade. There are no weight limits.

SECTION 2 – Player Restriction Exceptions

Exceptions to 1A, 1B, and 1C will be considered by and subject to the Board of Directors decision.

SECTION 3 – Official Weigh-in

All players shall be weighed while at the player evaluations and prior to the draft. Players who are unable to attend the player evaluation will submit a weight at registration and will be subject to review by the Director of Registration. This weight will be used to determine which group the player is placed in for draft purposes only, and is not an official weight. Final weigh-in will occur during dress scrimmage and is the final opportunity to receive an official weight. Official weigh-ins will be conducted by one Board member and at least one other league official, so that no less than two (2) approved personal are present at all times.

SECTION 4 – Game Schedule

The Season will consist of a minimum of six (6) games and maximum eight (8) games plus selected scrimmages. Game times are 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, and 4:30 on each Sunday. Each team must complete the schedule of league games as posted.

SECTION 5 – Practice Schedule

Practice schedules shall be determined by the Director of League Operations and limited to three (3) per week. There will be two (2) full contact practices during the week and one (1) practice on Saturday morning. During the regular season Saturday practice in a No Contact Practice.

SECTION 6 – Number of Players per Team

Each team will consist of no less than 15 players, to be determined by the Director of League Operations following the conclusion of signups.

SECTION 7 - Oversight

A member of the DFL Board or their designated representative will be present at all DFL games.

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ARTICLE IV – RULES of PLAY

SECTION 1 – Junior League Coach Instruction

In the Junior League, the coaches will be permitted to instruct their teams from the playing field. Only one coach for offense and one coach for defense are allowed on the field at a time.

SECTION 2 – Senior League Coach Instruction

In the Senior League, coaches will instruct their teams from the sideline.

SECTION 3 – Penalties

Any penalty that is a 15-yard penalty under the National Federation of State High Associations Rules will be assessed 10 yards instead. Face Mask and Unnecessary Roughness are penalties that result in an automatic first down. "Horse Collar" is an enforceable rule in the DFL, and is an automatic first down.

SECTION 4 – Time Outs

Each team will be allowed three (3) time-outs per half. Time-outs not used in the first half cannot be carried forward to the second half. Time-outs not used in the second half cannot be carried forward to an overtime period. A time-out will be one minute in length. Overtime time-outs are covered in Section 21. During a game, the clock will stop in accordance with Rule 3 of the National Federation of State High Associations rulebook. This will include, but is not limited to the following:

- Following and injury
- Following a penalty
- Following an incomplete forward pass
- Ball out of bounds
- Following a score
- An Officials time-out
- At the end of each period
- A charged time-out

SECTION 5 – Injured Player

An injured player must be removed from the playing field for at least one (1) down. The Officials will make the determination if a player is injured. No exceptions will be made to this rule. **DO NOT MOVE A PLAYER OR REMOVE HIS HELMET UNTIL THE INJURY IS DETERMINED.**

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SECTION 6 – Interception, Fumble, & Illegal Touching

Any defensive player may advance the ball after an interception or fumble. Should there be a fumble caused during the course of action any offensive player may recover and advance the ball. It is illegal to have an ineligible offensive player carry the ball or catch a pass on a designed play, regardless if the player is weight correct or not. NOTE: The intent of this rule is to promote the fundamentals of football. If a player is lined up as a guard teach him to block. Do not design a trick play to get the football to him.

SECTION 7 – Keeping Game Time

The playing time of the regular season games shall be four 8-minute quarters with 10-minute halftimes, which include 7-minute half and 3-minute warm up. Time is to be kept per OHSAA Rules. Ready to Play - when the referee signals the ball ready for play, the team has 30 seconds to put the ball in play by the snap of the ball. The penalty for delay in putting the ball in play is five (5) yards.

NOTE: The National Federation uses 30 seconds. COMMENT: At times, it will take longer for younger players to get organized, and get the ball in play. The 30-second rule is intended to speed up play. There is normally no intent to delay the game by the players in our program. If, in the opinion of the game officials, delay is intended then the officials may stop the clock until the ball is snapped.

SECTION 8 – Points After Touchdown

Points after touchdown may be scored in two ways: a RUN or PASS is two points, or a KICK is one point.

SECTION 9 – Length of Field

For the Junior and Senior League the field will be 100 yards in length. In the Flag League, the field of play will be 80 yards long and as wide as the hash. The end zones will be 10 yards long in all leagues.

SECTION 10 – Kickoffs

There will be no kickoffs. The ball will be put into play on the 30-yard line for all leagues unless otherwise indicated by special rule. NOTE: Time will start on the snap rather than the ready to play signal.

SECTION 11 - Safety

After a safety there will be no free kick, the ball will be placed on the 50-yard line.

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SECTION 12 - Punting

Any player is allowed to punt the ball. Head Coaches must notify officials of his teams' intention to punt or not punt, prior to breaking the huddle. After notification of a punt, the team must punt the ball. Penalty for violation is 10 yards and a loss of possession. The receiving team must have at least eight players on the line of scrimmage. Neither the offensive team nor the defensive team may cross the line of scrimmage. There will be no rush on punt plays, and there are no punt returns. The ball is marked dead at the spot in which the receiving team touches the ball. If the ball is not touched by the receiving team than the ball is marked dead at its final resting spot.

COMMENT: If the center's snap is fumbled or sails over the punter's head, the punter is allowed to gain possession of the ball. However, the punt must be made from the spot where the possession is made. The five-second clock should not begin until the punter has complete possession of the ball.

SECTION 13 – Field Goals and Extra Points

Any player is allowed to kick or hold PAT's and Field Goals. Head Coaches must notify officials of his teams' intention to kick prior to breaking the huddle. After notification of a kick, the team must kick the ball. Penalty for violation is a failed attempt. Neither the offensive team nor the defensive team may cross the line of scrimmage at any time during the try. There will be no rush on kick plays, although the players are allowed to jump straight up and down and/or waive their arms. Kicker has five seconds to kick the ball. Upon a missed field goal, the ball is placed on the 30-yard line.

SECTION 14 – Official Football Size

The official league football for the Senior League will be the TDJ or Junior size ball. The official league football for the Junior League and Flag League will be the K2 or Pee Wee size ball. Each team may provide their own official ball to the officials before the game. Official game balls will be distributed by the League Commissioner before the season starts.

SECTION 15 - Blitzing

No blitzing is allowed by any player. Blitzing is defined as a defensive player who was more than one (1) yard off the line of scrimmage before the snap and charging forward in anticipation or penetrating the line of scrimmage simultaneously with the snap. A defensive player who has established a position within one yard of the line of scrimmage, irrespective of whether he is in a down position or in an upright position, will not be classified as a Blitzzer.

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SECTION 16 – Line of Scrimmage

In the Junior League, only 5 or 6 players can be on the defensive line of scrimmage when the ball is between the 20-yard lines. The players may line up anywhere on the line of scrimmage between the hash marks in a down position. Non-linemen must be at least one yard off the line of scrimmage when inside the hashes. From the 20-yard line to the goal line, any number of defensive players may be on the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 17 – Overtime

Regular Season: Overtime in the regular season is only permissible in the Senior League. There is no overtime session for the Junior League during the regular season. Each team will be given one opportunity to score from the 20-yard line. A team can get a first down if it reaches the 10-yard line within four plays. The clock does not run during the overtime period. The 30-second rule is in play and kept by the referees on the field. Each team is given one time-out for the overtime period.

Playoff Games: Overtime will be played by all divisions in the DFL for playoff games. The overtime periods will be played until one team has scored more points than the other has during the same overtime period. The ball will be put in play at the twenty-yard line for the first overtime and then the ten-yard line for successive overtime period. Each team receives one time-out per overtime period. Time-outs not used in an overtime period cannot be carried forward to the next overtime period.

SECTION 21 – Official Rule Book

The Official Football Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations shall govern all games, unless a rule is otherwise modified by the DFL in the above listed RULES section.

SECTION 22 – Referee Memo

Referees will remember that the DFL is an instructional league and they are encouraged to educate players rather than penalize them. This is assuming that the infraction does not provide an advantage to the player's team.

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ARTICLE V – DRAFT OF PLAYERS

SECTION 1 – Draft Roster

The draft will be conducted at the special drafting session from a roster of draftees. This is considered a “blind draft” as coaches will not know the identity of the players before they draft.

SECTION 2 – Draft Representative

The Head Coach or representative for each team is required to attend for the entire draft session. Players are NOT permitted to be present during the draft.

SECTION 3 – Player Segmenting

All players moving from one league to the next (i.e., Flag to Junior, Junior to Senior) along with new players to the DFL will be rated as an A, B, C Lineman or Back during the Player Evaluations. A player is determined to be a Lineman or Back based on the weight restrictions for each league. In the Junior League, players weighing more than eighty-five pounds are considered Linemen. In the Senior League, players weighing more than one-hundred ten pounds are considered Linemen.

SECTION 4 – Protected Players

Sons of Head Coach and named Assistant Coach’s will be on the team roster automatically. Players returning to a team by virtue of his father’s coaching activity in the previous year will still be considered one of the allotted “Protected Players” - even if that father is not coaching in the current season. This is called the “Protected Player Rule” and this rule applies to all leagues.

SECTION 5 – Returning Players

Players remaining in the same league can return to the same team on which they played in the prior year. Players do not have to stay on the same team, and may elect to re-enter the draft. Both of these choices are made during the registration process and before the draft.

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SECTION 6 – Draft Order

The Draft is a “serpentine” style draft. Draft order will be determined by simply drawing numbers from a hat. The Draft is led by the respective Commissioners for each Division with oversight by the other Board members. Teams with returning players will not select players from the draft until all teams before them have an equal number of players.

SECTION 7 – Equal Age Weightings

Each team will draft an equal amount of underclassman and upperclassman based on the remaining players in the draft pool and their current roster. Teams are not required to cut returning players in order to have the equal number.

Example #1: Senior League Draft

- 18 player roster
- 12 Teams
- 108 total fifth graders registered = 9 per team
- 108 total sixth graders registered = 9 per team

**Team RED has ten (10) returning players that are 6th Graders. All remaining players must be drafted from the 5th grade pool. This will give them eight 5th graders out of the 9 required.

Example #2: Junior League Draft

- 18 player roster
- 12 team league
- 96 total third graders registered = 8 per Team
- 120 total fourth graders registered = 10 per team

**Team WHITE has six (6) 4th graders returning to the team. With the remaining 12 picks, Team WHITE must pick at least eight (8) 3rd graders and must limit the 4th grade picks to four (4). This will give them an equal share of the third grade and fourth grade pools.

SECTION 8 – Siblings

Siblings are always placed on the same team for convenience, unless otherwise requested by the parents during registration. The first sibling picked is placed on the roster board in the order they were picked. The second sibling is placed on the roster, but considered the last pick for draft purposes.

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ARTICLE VI – COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

**I hereby pledge to live up to my certification as an NYSCA member coach
by following the NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics.**

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all DFL events.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of the game that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

I hereby pledge to adhere to the NYSCA Coaches Code of Ethics and fully understand if I do not uphold them I will be held accountable for my behavior, leading up to revocation of my membership, as outlined in the Accountability and Enforcement Policies enforced by the local chapter of the National Alliance for Youth.

Printed Name

Signature

Team

