**The Rules and Regulations Manual is designed to be the working document that guides our member teams through each season of play. This document may be amended as needed during the year upon the Board of Directors approval.**

**It will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to rule on any matter not covered in this Manual and to interpret the Rules and Regulations Manual.**

**You have given your approval on the contents of this document. With your approval comes the understanding that you will pledge to operate your team under the Rules and Regulations Manual. Failure to adhere to the Rules and Regulations Manual is outlined under the Suspension and Fine section of this Manual.**

**Home Team Responsibility**

**It is the responsibility of the home team to provide adequate playing facilities for the visiting squad and their hometown fans. These facilities should have at a minimum the following:**

**Press Box – The press box shall be made available to no less than two (2) coaches from the visiting team. Additional room for filming of game by visitor should be accessible if space is available.**

**PA system and Announcer – Each home team should have an announcer for all games. This is a positive way for keeping the fans involved in the game.**

**Score Board with Game Clock and Qualified Attendant – The game clock should be checked prior to the start of the game. A qualified individual should be running the clock. This individual should have sufficient understanding of the game. The attendant becomes part of the officiating crew and takes his or her instructions directly from the head official.**

**Locker Room(s) – The visiting team must have locker room access made available at least two (2) hours before kickoff. The locker rooms should have functioning showers and toilet facilities. If no facilities are available at the field other arrangements should be made and the visiting team notified of this fact in writing.**

**Security – shall be provided by the home team. At least one (1) security personnel should be on the premises. This person shall be in uniform and have powers to detain and/or arrest. It’s preferable to have a local police but a security firm with the above qualifications will suffice. Adequate security will prevent any problems before they arise.**

**Sideline Security – Only designated persons shall be allowed on the sidelines during the game. Each team should make sure all sidelines are secure and free of fans. It is recommended that you employ some sort of sideline pass. This rule protects both the players and spectators.**

**Emergency Medical Personnel – It is recommended that emergency medical personnel or a vehicle to transport an injured person be stationed at the game. You should at least be able to summons them in a moment’s notice and their response time should be within a few minutes.**

**Trainer – All teams should have a certified trainer at all games. The home team trainer is not required to do any taping or supplying of equipment for the visiting squad.**

**Officials – Payment for all officials is the responsibility of the home team and due prior to each game. A crew of officials will consist of no less than six officials. It will be the home team’s responsibility to provide a qualified chain crew and clock operator. The chain crew and clock operator will be a member of the official’s crew.**

**Water – The home team shall make sure that the visiting squad has water available for their sidelines. It would also be a nice gesture to provide ice for the visiting squad, but this is not mandatory.**

**Footballs – Each team is responsible for their own footballs. The League will decide on a yearly basis the official football for the upcoming season. All footballs must meet the approval of the head official. Failure to provide proper footballs may lead to a fine and/or forfeiture of the game.**

**Headsets – The home team shall not be responsible to provide headsets to the visiting squad. If the home team has additional headsets available they may be loaned to the visiting squad at the discretion of the home team. The home team shall assist the visitors in any way possible in setting up their headsets.**

**Reports – It is the responsibility of the home team to fax and/or e-mail a completed game report and statistics to the league office no later than Monday at 6pm following the game. In the event the game is played on Sunday the reporting deadline will then move to 6pm Tuesday.**

**Player Roster – Your player roster must be posted to/on your team website no later than Thursday 12 (midnight) preceding your game. Your revised roster should include the player’s name, his jersey number, position, height and weight, and post high school experience. Each team can carry up to 60 players.**

**Stadium Availability – The stadium shall be opened, for the visiting team, two (2) hours prior to the start of the game. This allows the visiting squad to get properly prepared for the game. If, due to emergency, you are not able to open the field and field house for the visiting team within the two-hour time line, you must do everything in your power to accommodate the visiting team.**

**Game Field Markings: The IFL field is market as High School or College markings. Center Hash marks and tick marks are required (sideline tick marks are not required.**

**Financial Responsibility – The financial responsibility of the game rides completely on the home team. The home team pays for all game related expenses and retains all game related receipts. All home**

**Stadium Liability – All teams must have Stadium Liability Insurance on their playing facility.**

**Teams will allow the minimum of the visiting squad players, coaches, and team support personnel into the game at no charge. It is up to each home team to determine how many other persons, from the visiting team, are to be allowed free access to the game.**

**Visiting Team Responsibility**

**Player Roster – Your player roster must be sent to the league office no later than Wednesday preceding your game. Your revised roster should include, the player’s name, his jersey number, position, height and weight, and post high school experience.**

**Arrival Time – is one to two (2) hours prior to kick off. This allows you plenty of time to prepare for the kick off. Your team should be in their proper uniform and ready for kick off at the scheduled time. In the event your team has difficulty arriving to the game on time, it is your responsibility to notify the home team as soon as possible.**

**Conduct of your players – is your responsibility at all times. Your team is responsible for how the team conducts itself before, during and after the game. Your team is responsible for maintaining control on your sideline. Your team will be held directly responsible for its actions.**

**Equipment – It is your responsibility to bring all necessary equipment, except those areas that were defined as the responsibility of the home team. Do no expect a home team to supply you with any additional items that you may have forgotten. It is not their responsibility.**

**Footballs – It is the responsibility of each team to provide their own footballs. Each team can use the brand football (pro/college) they desire and must be a 11-13lb football.**

**Headsets – It is the visiting teams’ responsibility to provide their own headsets if they so desire. If the home team does have extra headsets available they, at their discretion, may make them available. At no time shall the home team be made to not use their headsets because the visitors have failed to bring their headsets.**

**Game Times – All regular season games shall start between the hours of 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM local time on Saturday nights. The home, visiting team, and Commissioner must all approve any deviations from the Saturday evening game.**

**In the event the away team does not have 11 to start the game on time, It will be a $50.oo fine up to 30 minutes late. IF A TEAM ARRIVES MORE THAN 30 MINUTES LATE, IT will be a forfeit! Everyone knows when game time is, and is expected to leave early enough to make it on time!**

**Length / Start of Season**

**Length – of the League’s season will be restricted to minimum eight (8) regular season games and a maximum of fourteen (14) regular season games. Non-League pre season games by League members are encouraged. Post season League play is outlined in the section labeled Playoff and Championship Game.**

**Season – The League shall vote and set the season start and finish dates for each season of play.**

**Player / Coaches Conduct**

**No Fighting – Fighting will not be tolerated. The head official may remove any team player, coach, or team personnel that engages in fighting before, during or after a game, from the game. The Director of Officials will handle any further sanctions against this individual with recommendations from the games’ head official and league commissioner.**

**No Swearing/Obscenities – It is the intent of the league, and its member teams, to curb swearing and obscenities by any player, coach or team personnel before, during or after a game. Any one who is found to violate this rule, after sufficient warning by the head official, may be removed from the game and may be subject to further sanctions by the Commissioner. The league understands that in the heat of battle foul language may be used, but it is expected to be kept to a minimum and at a low enough level so that spectators are not subjected to any profanity.**

**No Taunting/Intimidation – of unreasonable manner will be tolerated. Any player, coach or team personnel that engages in excessive or unreasonable taunting or intimidation before, during or after the game may be removed from the game and may be subject to additional sanctions by the Commissioner.**

**No Weapons – will be allowed in any game facility. Any player, coach or team personnel caught with a weapon will be handed over to the local authorities. Furthermore this individual or individuals will be restricted from being involved with League teams indefinitely.**

**No Smoking – by any player, coach or team personnel will be allowed on or near the playing field. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in that person(s) removal from the playing field.**

**No Alcohol Drinking – by any player, coach or team personnel will be allowed on or near the playing field. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in that person(s) removal from the playing field.**

**Players, Rosters & Roster Changes**

**Your completed roster – must be posted to your team website by Thursday prior to the first game of your teams regular season play. All rosters must contain the player’s jersey number, first and last name, position, height, weight, high school, and post high school experience.**

**Active Roster: A maximum of sixty (60) players are allowed on the roster at any one time. Teams may add or minus players as many times as they wish up to the 8th game of the regular season. No additions after the 8th regular season game.**

**Roster Id – Each team has the right to ID each teams players prior to any league scheduled regular season, playoff, and championship game.**

**Release of Contract – may only be done by the team owner, coach and/or general manager. No player(s) may play for any other League member team once signing a contract, without first getting a release from the said contract. Any team playing a player(s) without a valid release will forfeit all games in which ineligible player(s) participated. If unsure of a player’s status, a team should check with the League Office and/or the Commissioner to find out if any player(s) is under current contract.**

**Team Switching – No player may switch between League teams after having signed a contract without the consent of both teams. In the event of a dispute between teams, the League Commissioner will rule on the player’s team status. No player is allowed to switch teams after the sixth (8th) game of the season.**

**Roster Changes – Roster changes and/or additions may be made each week up to the 8th regular season game. All updated rosters must be posted/on each team website by midnight Thursday preceding a game for any player(s) to be considered eligible to play.**

**Suspended Player(s) – Any suspended player is not allowed on any League roster until said suspension has expired. Furthermore, they are not allowed to coach or participate as part of the team personnel during their suspension or allowed on the sideline.**

**Ineligible Player – Any player who has been suspended or whose contract is not on file with the League Office or who is already signed with another League team during the same year and has not been released. Use of any ineligible player during any League contest will result in forfeiture of games played with that player. No player can be accept onto any League member team if said player is in possession of, has not turned in, and/or owes any team fees to another League member team.**

**Uniform Requirements**

**Jerseys – All teams must have (1) matching set of jerseys for every dressed player. All teams will designate their home and away jersey colors prior to the start of the season.**

**Pants – All teams will have one matching pair of quality football pants. Pants must be of good quality with no rips or tears.**

**All dressed players – must be wearing matching helmets, jerseys, pants, and socks. All towels used on the field must be of uniform size and type. Players may not wear cut off jerseys or pants, jewelry that may cause personal harm or injury, and head coverings that protrude from the helmet.**

**Playing Rules**

**Modified NFL Rules – will be used for all games within the League including all playoff and championship games.**

**IFL Overtime: IFL uses College overtime play (ball is placed at the 25 yard line).**

**Blatchford Rule – will be in effect. This rule allows, at the discretion of the head official, to set any player, who engages in un-sportsman like behavior, on the bench for one (1) series. The player will be allowed to re-enter the game after this cool down period. Further un-sportsman like behavior from the same player may result in his being removed from the game.**

**Game Ejection – will result in ejected player(s) being suspended for the next regular season or playoff game in which their team is to participate. This player(s) will be considered ineligible for one game. Game ejection is at the sole discretion of the game referee. Time remaining in the game has no bearing on the ejection. For example, there is one (1) minute remaining and a player(s) is ejected for fighting; that player(s) is suspended for the next game. It is the responsibility of the game referee to notify the Director of Officials of the player(s) suspension. The Director of Officials will in turn notify the player(s) team, the team’s next opponent, and the League Executive Committee.**

**Game Referee – Head Referee‘s final word prevails at all League games. The game referee of the ball game will have the final ruling on all calls of judgment. It will be up to the game referee to maintain control of the game in any way they see fit. Failure of players, coaches, and team representatives to adhere to the game referee and all officials request will result in further sanctions against those parties.**

**Officials**

**IFL Certified Officials – will be the only officials allowed to call any League contest. For more info on becoming a certified official please e-mail commissioner at tristate\_wildcats@yahoo.com. This certification must take place at least a week before each teams opening home game, failure to have refs certified will result in a $50 fine per ref per game until it’s completed.**

**Officials – 4 to 6 officials must be used for all League contests. The officials’ crew will consist of at least (4) on field officials at all times.**

**Chain Gang and Clock Operator – are part of the officials’ crew. It is the responsibility of the home team to have a qualified chain gang and clock operator for all home games. All chain gangs and clock operators are to remain neutral at all times and follow the directions of the game officials.**

**Statistics**

**Statistics – should be kept by the home team and provided weekly to the League after every game. Statistics are the lifeblood of any sport. Good quality stats will help to separate our League from other leagues. Statistics are the one thing that players play for; it is how they measure themselves against their peers. Failure to file reports will only hurt your team and let down your players. Remember that statistics are used to compile the All Star selections and go in our media guide. Stats need entered by midnight Sunday of each week.**

**Leave of Absence**

**Leave of Absence – Any member or probationary team may appeal to the Executive Committee or the full board, during a regularly scheduled meeting, for a one (1) year leave of absence. It is understood that during that time the absent team should not be involved in any other regular league sanctioned play. In return the League will hold a spot open, for the following year, and that team will be allowed to return without going through the probationary membership status.**

**Suspension and Fines**

**The Commissioner – will have the responsibility to levy fines against players, coaches, and teams for infractions of the Rules and Regulations Manual. The Executive Committee is allowed to authorize fines between the amounts of $25.00 and $1,000.00 for matters such as fighting, un-sportsman like conduct, vulgar or abusive language, failure to meet Association obligations, etc. Any player with any outstanding unpaid fine will be considered not eligible for All-Star game participation. Additionally, the following violations carry a specific fine amount and may be levied by the Executive Committee, at their discretion:**

**1. Teams failing to make League scheduled meetings without notice – $100 each offense**

**2. Away teams failure to show for their away game and therefore forfeiting League scheduled game – $500 each offense paid to opposing team.**

**3. Home teams who fail to have a field available or do not have the 4 minimum refs to play a home game will be fined $100 each occurrence and after 2nd occurrence may be voted out of the league indefinitely. If any of these problems occur, you must notify the visiting team in writing no later than Wednesday of that week. This does not count towards teams who cannot play on school field due to extreme weather conditions or other acts of God, as warranted by schools decision ONLY!**

**4. Teams failing to report necessary information – $25 each offense**

**5. Uniform violations – $25 each offense**

**Although the Rules and Policy Manual is intended to be all inclusive the Executive Committee retains the right to levy fines and/or render other penalties for matters that arise and are not covered in the Manual.**

**\* Three (3) unexcused meeting absences in a row may result in removal from the League.**

**Appeal Process**

**Appeal process is available to all member teams, but only member teams. No player may make appeal for any suspension(s). If player(s) wish to appeal they must do so through their team.**

**Fines – may be appealed directly to the Executive Committee. All appeals should be stated in letter form and should clearly request an appeal. All arguments for your cause should be clearly stated. If unsatisfied with the outcome of the appeal, the team may further appeal to the full board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The full board decision is final.**

**Suspensions – may be appealed directly to the Board of Directors. All appeals should be stated in letter form and should clearly request an appeal. All arguments for your cause should be clearly stated. If unsatisfied with the outcome of your appeal further appeal may be made to the Executive Committee. The full Board of Directors decision is final.**

**Breach of Contract – All IFL Team Owners at NO POINT during season play, may persue another team owner in order to get him to leave the league or approach them about joining another Team/League. This is a breach of contract to the IFL and will result in automatic dismissal from the League!**

**Playoff and Championship Game**

**Playoffs and Championship Game – shall be held on a yearly basis at the conclusion of the each conferences season. Playoff format will be determined at the annual scheduling meeting.**

**Playoffs 2013 – 2 best teams from each conference, based in divisional wins not overall record.**

**Home Field – will go to the top seeded teams during both playoff and championship contests. The home team may, at their discretion, pass the home field to their opponent with the prior approval of the Commissioner.**

**Game Day(s) – shall be scheduled on Saturday, preferable in the evening. In the event the home team cannot secure a field for Saturday, they may with the approval of the Commissioner and their opponent schedule the contest for Sunday. In the event that a suitable date cannot be arranged the Commissioner has the right to transfer the game to the opponents home field if it is available. If it is not available the Commissioner has the right to designate the time and place for the contest.**

**League Standings – will be determined by the winning percentage of all teams in the League. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be used to break a tie: 1) Head to head competition, 2) Average points against, and 3) and average points scored.**

**All-Star Game**

**All-Star Game – shall be held on a yearly basis at the conclusion of or 30 days prior to each League season. All-Star game format will be determined at the annual scheduling meeting.**

**League Rules Interpretation – All rules are administered and interpreted by the Board of Directors. Any appeal of these rules must be done in the following manner:**

**1. All rules pertaining to League play and players’ suspensions are to be directed to the Commissioner.**

**2. All rules pertaining to team operating guidelines are to be directed to the League Board of Directors.**

**I have read and understand the IPFL rules. Furthermore I understand that if I don’t abide by these terms I may be release the Twin City Thunder without cause.**

**PLAYERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE OR PLAY UNTIL THE IPFL RULES ARE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE TWIN CITY THUNDER ORGANIZATION. PERIOD!!!!**

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