



PO Box 16181, Hooksett NH 03106
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NORTHEAST JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
BY-LAWS
As Amended: February, 11th 2016

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the **NORTHEAST JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**, herein referred to as NJHFL

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to assist area organizations in the promotion of youth football by:

- A. Providing a set game schedule(s)
- B. Maintain communication between organizations
- C. Provide and enforce a uniform set of Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

The organization shall consist of a Board of Directors and an Executive Board of Directors

- A. Board of Directors
 1. Shall be the governing body of the NJHFL and has final say on all league matters
 2. Each organization will be represented by the following
 - a. Senior Varsity Head Football Coach: Votes on all league matters and those concerning the Senior Division
 - b. If so desired will designate another individual to vote on matters concerning the Junior/Youth Division.
 3. Shall hold yearly elections to elect an Executive Board of Directors. Elections to be held at the league's end of year meeting.
 4. Shall vote upon and approve game schedule(s) for the given year.
 5. Any decision by the Board of the Directors shall be binding and final.
- B. The Executive board of directors shall consists of:
 1. Chairman
 - a. Shall act as the Chairman of the board and votes only in the case of a tie by the full board of directors.
 - b. Will provide the Secretary an agenda for regular meetings.
 - c. Will be responsible along with the other Executive Board members for overseeing the everyday running and operation of the league.
 - d. At the start of the season i.e.: scheduled games, the Chairman will act as League Commissioner. As League Commissioner, shall be responsible for enforcing and/or interrupting league by-laws along with rules and regulations.



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2. Vice Chairman
 - a. Shall assume the duties of the Chairman in the event the Chairman unable or absent from league meetings.
 - b. Will be responsible for expansion of the NJHFL.
 - c. Will be responsible for all player eligibility. (Rosters)
 - d. Will not have a vote
 3. Secretary
 - a. Shall record minutes and keep record of all meetings.
 - b. Will be responsible for keeping the contact list current.
 - c. Will be responsible for informing the membership of meetings
 - d. Will be responsible for e-mailing the agenda prior to any meeting.
 - e. Will not have a vote
 4. Treasurer
 - a. Shall deposit all League funds
 - b. Will keep bank records
 - c. Will disburse funds as prescribed by the Board of directors.
 - d. Will present a yearly budget to Board of directors
 - e. Will not have a vote
- C. In the absence of Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and Secretary shall assume all duties of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- D. If any of the Executive Board cannot fulfill their duties due to resignation, illness, or death, the remaining Executive Board members will call for a special election within thirty days.
- E. The Executive Board shall interpret the By-Laws, rules and regulations of the NJHFL, and shall exercise all powers necessary for the proper functioning and operation of the NJHFL.
- F. Shall set divisional alignments within a Division for vote by the Board of Directors.

Article IV

League Funding & Fines

Funds:

- A. Appropriation of funds will be directed by the executive board and approved by a vote of the Board of Directors.
- B. To participate in the League, each organization will be required to pay a yearly fee to the League by June 1st. That fee will be determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season.
- C. The executive board shall have the right to use funds in the course of its duty, not to exceed \$300.00. These expenditures will be reported to the Board of Directors at the next regular meeting.
- D. League funding, dues and new team initiation fees will be set each year by the Board of Directors.

Fines: The league may impose fines as its sole discretion. Fines will be imposed on the following:

- A. \$25.00 Fine for not having a representative at a regularly scheduled League meeting.
- B. \$25.00 Fine for not having League dues in by date set by the league.
- C. \$25.00 Fine for not submitting a team's roster by the date set forth by the league for when a roster is due.
 1. The fine shall increase to \$50 for each week missed thereafter.
 2. If the Vice Chairman has not received the team's roster by the Friday prior to the next scheduled game, said team to forfeit game and every game thereafter until a roster has been supplied.



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3. Team/organization may face additional league sanctions as set forth by Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership into the League shall be limited to organizations invited to participate by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular League meeting.
 1. Prior to voting, an organization may and can be interviewed by the Executive Board of Directors as well as by the Board of the Directors.
- B. Upon admittance to the league will have full privileges and all voting rights.

ARTICLE VI

DRAW AREAS/PLAYERS

- A. Organizations must designate a High School SAU district from which it draw it's players from
- B. Players shall live within that organization's represented High School's SAU district or from a town(s) that contracts or has an agreement to send its students into that SAU district.
 1. Organizations may take players from outside their represented High School's SAU district.
 2. Said players will then go thru the league's waiver process*
- C. Player Designation:
 1. Each Senior and Junior Level Varsity Team must designate (as part of its game day roster, name and jersey number) no fewer than 18 "Varsity" players. These players cannot play in JV games unless a team does not have enough players to field a JV team. See Rules and Regulations for further information.
 2. If a team has fewer than 36 total players (Varsity plus JV); such team may designate a smaller number of Varsity players to be determined by subtracting 18 from the total number of available players. (For example, if a team has 30 players for both Varsity and JV, it may designate only 12 players as Varsity: $30 - 18 = 12$).

***Waiver Process:**

- A. Organizations wishing to waiver in a player will supply the player's name, DOB, current town of residence, grade level and reason why they are requesting a waiver either by email or verbally at a regularly scheduled league meeting.
- B. Upon receipt of player information, Board of Directors with vote yes or no to waive player in. Simple yes majority is required for waiver approval.
- C. A player shall go through the review/waiver process only once.

Article VII

ORGINIZARION/TEAM FUNDING

- A. Each member organization must be self-supporting and self-funding.
- B. The league does get involved with and/or supports organizations financially.



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Article VIII

LEAGUE SCHEDULE/DIVISIONS/GAME RULES

- A. The League schedule will be set yearly by the Executive Board, with approval from Board of Directors.
- B. The League has three separate levels of play.
 - 1. They will be identified as Senior (grades 7 & 8 or Varsity/JV), Junior (grades 5 & 6 or Junior-Varsity/JV) and Youth (grades 2, 3 & 4) divisions. See Rules and Regulations for more information
- C. Preseason Practice: Teams shall start no earlier than four weeks prior to the opening of the regular season.
 - 1. Newly formed teams shall have an additional week of preseason practice.
- D. Any open dates on a team's schedule may be filled by that team at their discretion, as long as it does not interfere with the League schedule.
- E. Games will be played under National Federation of High School Rules, as well as NJHFL Rules and Regulations.
- F. Game Day:
 - 1. The Varsity Head Football Coach for each team is responsible for policing their side of the field. Any violations of NFHS rules, league bylaws, rule and regulations and/or conduct deemed detrimental by their players, coaches, fans, board members or others can and will be subject to league discipline.
 - 2. During games only coaches, players, cheerleaders, medical personal and team photographers will be allowed to be within the field of play as determined by the league.
 - 3. The chain crew will be on the home teams side of the field
- G. Home team will provide a current rule book at each game.
- H. Home teams shall set game starting times.*
 - 1. If a game time change is necessary after the schedule has been set as "official", the home team must notify the visiting team, League Coordinator of Officials, and the Executive Board within 48 hours of the desired change. Game time change(s) must be mutually agreed to by both the home and visiting teams.
 - 2. Changes in game times due to weather conditions or school officials should be announced as soon as possible to the above mentioned parties.
 - 3. Any and all make up games must be played prior to the end of the regular season.
 - 4. Upon a change(s) in game time, it is the responsibility of the Executive Board of Directors and/or the league scheduler to notify the rest of the league of the change(s).

*Penalties for violation of Section H: In the event the home team fails to abide by Article VIII, Paragraph H:

- 1. The home team will lose home field advantage for the make-up game(s), the visiting team shall now be the home team and will set game time and notify the Executive Board and the Leagues Official Coordinator.
 - 2. Also, the team that is in violation will lose home field advantage to the opposing team to which the violation was committed for a period of two consecutive seasons.
- H. If a team refuses to show for a scheduled league game, that team will be subject to the following:
- 1. Be placed on probation for the remainder of the season and the following season as well.
 - 2. Lose all playoff rights for that season.
 - 3. If the game was scheduled as an away game, the team in violation will be assessed A fine of not more than three hundred (300) dollars to compensate the home team for loss of revenue (gate and concession). Fine is to be paid to the home team by the end of the season.



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G. RANKINGS

A team's placement within the division will be decided by its won-lost record within the division. The more wins, the higher the ranking.

1. Tie Breakers: If there are any tied records, the following steps will be used until the tie is broken.
 - a. Best Win/Lost record in the division.
 - b. Head to head (best won-lost record versus each other).
 - c. Total number of wins by opponents you have beaten within the division: The larger the sum, the higher the placement.
 - d. Cumulative sum of points allowed in the 1st half of all divisional games. The lower the sum the higher the placement.
 - e. If two or more teams are still tied, a coin toss will be used to determine placement.
 1. When 3 Teams are involved; the odd man wins and the 2 remaining teams will toss again.
 2. The League tie breaking rules will be reassessed prior to the start of each season and modified as needed due to the League membership and Team alignment for that season.

Article IX

PLAYOFFS

- A. At the conclusion of the regular season, the top four ranked Varsity teams from the Senior and Junior divisions will be the playoff teams.
- B. Games will be played as follow: #1 Seed will host #4 Seed; #2 Seed will host #3 Seed.
- C. The Head Coach of the hosting team will notify the visiting team's Head Coach as well as League's Officials Coordinator and Executive Board to the date, time and place of the playoff game no later than the first Tuesday after the end of the regular season.
- D. Once dates, times and locations for each playoff game are set, the Executive Board will notify all league teams.
- E. Unless mutually agreed by both teams, Senior playoff games shall not start earlier than 12 noon.
- F. The home team shall keep the gate and concession money
- G. There shall be 4 Officials at all Playoff games, paid by the Home team.
- H. Senior and Junior level JV games will be played first.

ARTICLE X

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

- A. The Senior Varsity Championship games shall be hosted at a neutral site. If a neutral cannot be found, games will be hosted by the highest seeded team within the division.
 1. Host Site: All organizations may nominate themselves to be the host site for the championship games. Nominations must be in no later than Oct 1st.
 2. Host Sites must meet the following requirements.
 - a. Have a turf field with lights
 - b. Ample space available for teams to warm up
 - c. Have available personal to man concessions, gates etc. for all games
 - d. Have qualified personal to run/operate scoreboard/clock and PA system for all games
 3. Once all nominations are in, the Board of Directors will then vote on host site by a simple majority



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4. The format for the championship games will be as follows
 - a. Division 2 JV Game
 - b. Division 2 Varsity Championship Game
 - c. Division 1 JV game
 - d. Division 1 Varsity Championship Game
5. The "Home" Teams will provide qualified personal to be the chain crew for both the JV and Varsity games
- B. The Junior Level Varsity Championship game shall be hosted by and played at the highest seed's home field.
 1. The format for the Junior Level Varsity Championship Game will be JV game played first followed by the Varsity Championship game.
 2. Have available personal to man concessions, gates, etc.
 3. Have qualified personal to run scoreboard/clock and PA system
- C. Each competing team will submit to the League Coordinator of Officials a list of three (3) officials they wish to have served as Officials for the Championship games. The Coordinator of Officials will then choose four Championship officials from the combined list.
- D. Championship game officials will be paid by the league.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

- A. All Organizations shall be notified by the secretary of any meetings, and the board of directors present at those meetings shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the chairman, executive board of directors, or by petition by no less than (3) members of the board of directors.

ARTICLE X

DISPUTES, COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES, VIOLATION OF BY-LAWS, RULES & REGULATIONS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Board of Directors of the NJHFL shall have the power to impose any disciplinary action(s) as it deems necessary and appropriate. Disciplinary action can range from a written reprimand, to disbarment from participating or associating with the NJHFL. Also, failure to comply with the By Laws, Rules and Regulations of the NJHFL shall be reviewed by the Executive Board/Board of Directors and if necessary take action as it deems fit.*

*All decisions/actions may be appealed by the process set forth in these By-Laws.

- A. Any and all dispute(s), complaint(s), grievance(s), violation of By-Laws, Rules & Regulations etc. must be reported to the League Chairman/Commissioner within 48 hrs.
- B. Upon hearing/reading the League Chairman/Commissioner shall do one of the following:
 1. If deemed appropriate, call for a hearing of the Executive Board of Directors.
 - a. Hearing to be held within 72 hours and/or as soon as possible.
 - b. At hearing will hear/read said dispute(s), complaint(s), grievance(s), etc. as well as any and all supporting information/documentation/interviews.



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- c. The Executive Board of Directors will then to the best of its ability resolve, and/or recommend further league action.
 2. If a hearing of the Executive Board of Directors is deemed not necessary, the League Chairman/Commissioner will then to the best of their ability resolve and/or recommend further league action.
 3. Will report incident(s) to the Board of Directors along with any finding(s) and/or recommendation(s) for further action(s); including recommendation(s) for any and all disciplinary action(s).
- C. Board of Directors will then vote, by simply majority, to approve/reject recommendation(s) and/or change recommendation as it sees fit.
- D. Appeals
1. Appeal of league action can be made within 72 hours.
 2. Appeals to be heard be the board of directors.

ARTICLE XI

GAME PROTESTS

- A. Protests will be presented to the League Commissioner in writing within forty-eight (48) hours. He will then review the nature and wording of the protest before presenting it to the League Executive Board of Directors for a decision.
- B. Protests will be decided by the Executive Board of Directors consisting of members not involved in the protest.

ARTICLE XII

PLAYER/COACH GAME DISQUALIFICATION:

- A. Any player or coach who is disqualified before, during or after a NJHFL game (including jamborees and rumbles), shall not participate in his team's next league scheduled game. League playoff and championship games are included.
- B. The supervisor of officials shall contact the League Chairman/Commissioner by 8PM that Sunday night about any disqualifications. The League Chairman/Commissioner shall contact the affected team and their next opponent (preferably the Head Coaches) prior to their next game about the disqualification.
- C. A disqualified player may be on his team's sideline, but may not participate in any way (to include but not limited to water boy, captains duties, warm-ups).
- D. If a player receives a second disqualification that season, he is disqualified for the remainder of the season.
- E. A disqualified coach may not be in contact with his team in any way on game day until the game is over, and is prohibited from attending any other League games that week.
- F. If a coach receives a second disqualification that season, he is ineligible to coach for the remainder of season. They may also face further league action, with the Board of Directors to vote on any additional actions/sanctions.
- G. Any disqualified player or coach who participates in the next game shall cause his team to forfeit that game and the disqualified player/coach shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season.
- H. Season disqualifications for both players and coaches to include practices, meetings, scouting, etc. as well as games.
- I. Disqualifications will be carried over to the next season when appropriate.



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ARTICLE XIII

COMMITTEES

Standing and special committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors from time to time as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the League.

ARTICLE XIV

PARLIMENTORY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised", shall govern the League in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-laws and special rules of order of the league.

ARTICLE XV

Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the NJFL, all physical assets will be liquidated and any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more non-profit, tax-exempt organizations dedicated to serving youth sports in the states of NH and MA. The Board of Directors shall determine to whom the funds are granted.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These by-laws and Rules and Regulations of the league and any items can be amended at any regular meeting of the League if the Board of Directors is in unanimous favor of the amendment. If the amendment is not unanimous then it must be presented in writing and voted on at the next meeting, where it must have a two-thirds favorable vote of the quorum present to pass.