

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
&  
POLICY REGULATIONS  
  
OF THE  
  
FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE



**2020 EDITION R1**  
**(Established. Jun 2020)**

**FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

# FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations

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## FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations

### SECTION 0 DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE and POLICY

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Definitions:

- **Purpose:** The reason for which something is done or created
- **Policy:** A definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions.
- **Scope:** The extent of the area or subject matter that something deals with or to which it is relevant
- **FFA:** Football Federation Alliance is a group of amateur adult football teams governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Governors.
- **Member Team:** Is a team accepted by the FFA as is outlined in the following rules which includes a signed league contract.
- **Executive Office:** This is made up of the Board of Directors of the FFA.
- **Administrative Office:** This is made up of staff which consists of a President and other Vice Presidents which are not always Owners of FFA member teams.
- **Board of Governors:** This body is made up of the Owners of each Member Team where each member team gets one vote.

#### Purpose:

The purpose of these policies is to summarize the minimum standards and requirements for participation in the Football Federation Alliance.

#### Policy Scope:

This policy applies to all of whom are associated with the Football Federation Alliance in the capacity of league officers, members (team owners), staff (coaches and team executives/administrators), players, and volunteers.

#### Policy:

Each member team is required to adhere to the minimum standards and requirements of the league that are outlined in this Administrative Rules and Policy Regulations manual. The Executive Office of the Football Federation Alliance (FFA) is responsible for overseeing the Administrative Office of the FFA in enforcing compliance of the minimum standards and requirements. Member teams must abide by these policies at all times. Ignoring these policies may result in fines, sanctions or expulsion from the league.

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### **SECTION 1 MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PLAYING FACILITY/FIELD**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 1.1 Facility Standards**

1. Field lines marked at distance intervals of 5 yards and a width of no less than 3 inches, no more than 5 inches.
2. Extra point line to be placed in the center of the field, 15 yards from each goal line.
3. Coaches/Players box must be lined.
4. Four (4) corner pylons in each end zone.
5. 10-yard sideline markers on visitor's sides of the field at minimum.
6. Goal Posts - High School, College or Professional regulation.
7. Protective goal post pads with 4" or more of foam.
8. Regulation down and distance indicator and 10-yard chains.
9. Two (2) sideline benches, each 10' in length, on each side of the field.
10. Field lights (available, functional and operable).
11. Scoreboard and Time Clock, readable by fans, refs and coaching staff available, functional and operable.
12. Field/Fan separation by way of a durable and permanent restraining fence (wood/concrete wall or chain link, wooden, iron bar style fence) and/or track. Any other type of separation must be approved by the FFA President or Senior Vice President.
13. Public Address System in use.
14. Concession Stand of at least a table(s) is to be set up for the sale of food and beverage items.
15. Public Rest Rooms, clean and functional.
16. Adequate ice and water for visitors must be provided. Visitor to supply own water containers.
17. Bleachers for fans on each side of the field is preferred but required on at least one side of the field and must accommodate a minimum capacity of 50 people.

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18. Four (4) hash marks, no more and no less than 1-yard in distance from each other, between every 5-yard line that are in-line with goal post uprights is preferred but is optional.

### **Rule 1.2 Gate Admissions**

1. Admission gate personnel are required.
2. Gate must be manned at all times.
3. Gate attendants must be at least 18 years old.
4. No alcohol will be sold or brought into any game.
5. Intoxicated fans are not to be admitted.

### **Rule 1.3 Game Security Standards**

1. Two uniformed certified law enforcement or security personnel with arrest/detention authority are required before an FFA game can begin:
  - a. Pre-Game Placement:
    - i. One law enforcement officer posted at entry gate until halfway through first quarter at which point, he may roam around and make visits to the visiting sideline.
    - ii. One law enforcement officer will be visible to both sides of field until game starts and then posted at home team sideline.
  - b. Post-Game:
    - i. One law enforcement officer should accompany officials until he is released by member team owner and/or authorized team representative.
    - ii. One law enforcement officer remains on field until the field is deemed secure by the said officer. He will then proceed to the parking lot until released by the member team owner and/or authorized team representative.

### **Rule 1.4 Medical Standards; Emergency Medical Plan**

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1. A Team Trainer present at all games is strongly recommended.
2. Certified Medical Personnel is strongly recommended to be at all games:
  - a. A Qualified Medical Person would be considered as: i.e., A Basic First Aid / CPR Certified person
    - i. An EMT
    - ii. A Paramedic
3. Field medical personnel are not required if the presence of a Fire-rescue station is within 2 miles from the field or a hospital or similar type of medical center (non-Clinic) is located within 5 miles of the game field/venue.
4. A written Team Emergency Medical Procedure document must be on file with the league office prior to the first game of a season.

### **Rule 1.5 Game Day Field Management**

1. A U.S. Flag must be displayed at the playing venue and must be at least 3' x 5' in size.
2. The U.S. National Anthem is to be played before the start of every game. In the event that any musical rendition of the U.S. National Anthem is not available for whatever reason, a two-minute moment of silence may be substituted.
3. During the playing of the U.S. National Anthem, players, coaches and all other sideline personnel are permitted to participate in a silent protest of either kneeling, standing without commonly saluting, or remaining in the locker room area (if one is provided). The protest must not include any offensive jester at any time during the anthem. All male organizational members and any FFA personnel members on the sideline must remove all headwear during that time.
4. The P.A. Announcer must have both team rosters for player identification during his broadcast at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to kickoff.
5. Public Service Announcements (PSA's) such as public rest room location(s), concession stand location(s) and sales, home team schedule and/or upcoming games, league standings, information, honored guests (VIP's), etc. are strongly recommended as a benefit to the crowd in attendance.
6. Any and all music played before, during and after a game will be "family acceptable" and void of all profanity and any promotion or mention of drugs, sex and violence.
7. Video and/or filming of the game is strongly encouraged by all teams. All FFA member teams have the right to film any game that their team is participated in and that is sanctioned by the FFA. Owners are encouraged to participate in a film exchange upon request.

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8. The Press Box should be limited to the P.A. Announcer, field spotters, scoreboard/clock operator, video/film crew and guests of honor. If there is adequate space in an area and/or room that is separate from other press box personnel, then both teams competing will be permitted to have coach(es) occupy such location provided said area/room is also separate from each coaching staff.

9. No cheering or loud noise is to interfere with spotters in the press box.

10. Host team will ensure the opening of dressing rooms at the initial arrival of the visiting team, as well as that of the start of halftime, if such amenity is provided, and will be done in a timely fashion.

11. Host team will ensure that items owned by the host or field owner is not exposed to theft.

12. Sideline(s):

a. Chain crew must be at least 16 years of age and is to refrain from comments during the game.

b. One or two (2) ball boys/girls at least 14 years of age.

c. Safety sideline vests must be worn by the chain crew in either a red, fluorescent orange, fluorescent yellow, or fluorescent green color (no exceptions).

d. Host team will provide three (3) approved FFA game balls for inspection by the Officials before kickoff.

e. Officials are to be provided a meeting area and liquid refreshments at halftime.

f. Officials are to be provided a secure meeting area to receive payment of services.

g. Optional - Officials may be equipped with an on-field microphone system.

### **Rule 1.6 Facility Liability Procedures**

1. It is the responsibility of the host to inspect, with the visiting team owner and/or representative, all facilities utilized by visiting team to ensure there are no problems or issues.

2. The host team will provide a document for the visiting team known as a "Facility Use Inspection Form" to sign indicating condition of locker/dressing room and sideline area prior to utilization and noting any existing problems/issues.

3. The visiting team will sign the "Facility Use Inspection Form" form again prior to departing the venue indicating that the facility was inspected and there were no problems, issues or concerns.

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

### **SECTION 2 LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP Effective Date: January 19, 2019**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 2.1 Definition of Team Membership in the FFA**

1. Team membership in the league is defined as a football team/organization, approved by the Board of Governors and the Executive Office of the Football Federation Alliance for competition in regular season and post-season play (upon qualification) that is in good standing.
2. A team in “good standing” is defined as one that is following all rules and minimum standards of the league and meets all team membership requirements as outlined in Rule 2.3.

#### **Rule 2.2 Team Membership**

1. Team membership in the league will be documented in writing and each team must follow all minimum standards, rules, policies, general administrative orders, regulations, by-laws, deadlines, and decisions of the Executive Office of the FFA.
2. Owners are held legally and financially responsible as individuals for all rules and standards.
3. The league commitment deadline for veteran teams shall be no sooner than July 1st, and no later July 31st, of each year.
4. Continuing league membership for current teams shall be determined by the Executive Office.

#### **Rule 2.3 Team Membership Requirements**

1. The following documents must be on-file and/or completed with the league office prior to the first game:
  - a. Signed and executed “Membership Agreement”.
  - b. Documents (Articles of Incorporation) issued by the State of Florida Division of Corporations exhibiting proof of team/organization incorporation and team must be Incorporated as a Not for Profit/Nonprofit incorporation. Said documents must also show the organization’s incorporation is in “active” status.
  - c. Proof of “General Liability Insurance” naming the Football Federation Alliance (FFA) as an additional insured.
  - d. Signed and executed Game Venue/Field Contract (regular season and post season).
  - e. Home Game Emergency Medical and Lightning Plan.

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f. Team Website (approved by Executive Office).

g. Completed FFA Communications Sheet

### **Rule 2.4 League Meetings**

1. Meetings, Tele-Conference Calls and/or video conferencing:

a. All meetings designated as mandatory must be attended by at least one representative from every team. There are no exceptions to this rule even if scheduled on the day of the championship game (Federation Bowl).

b. Teams who fail to attend any FFA league sanctioned meeting will be fined \$250.00.



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### **SECTION 3 TEAM OWNERSHIP**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 3.1 Team Ownership, Definition of**

1. Team Ownership is defined as the person listed on the State of Florida Articles of Incorporation as President or Chairman. In the case where there are “co-owners”, a written document must be submitted to the FFA President that designates one of the “co-owners” as the primary owner for the purpose of conducting business within FFA.

2. The Articles of Incorporation is to be on-file with an active status and must be a Non-Profit, retrievable using [www.sunbiz.org](http://www.sunbiz.org).

#### **Rule 3.2 Owners Rights and Responsibilities**

1. Owner are given certain rights and responsibilities and are as follows:

a. One representative (owner) will be elected to serve as a member of the league's Board of Governors. This representative shall be responsible for representing the interest of their team at the board meetings and be granted voting rights on all issues pertinent to the league when they are present at the Board meetings. In addition, this individual will be responsible for accurately relaying information from the league to the members of their organization.

b. Fines and fees that are assessed to the team are the responsibility of the team owner and/or co-owners as individuals.

#### **Rule 3.3 Communication Requirements**

1. Any change or update of communications information for a member organization must be provided by electronic mail (email), immediately to the Secretary of the FFA, and to be copied to the President and Senior Vice President as well.

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### **SECTION 4 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 4.1 Financial Requirements, Definition of**

1. Financial requirements of a member organization are defined as the amount of monetary obligation assessed by the FFA for annual league fees, fine(s) for a violation of league rule(s) and/or administrative order(s), and purchase of items and/or services required for participation in league activities and/or games not covered by annual league fees, etc.

#### **Rule 4.2 Team Financial Requirements**

1. Team financial requirements to the Football Federation Alliance are as follows:

a. A payment schedule will be forwarded to all teams no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first installment due date.

b. League fees shall be divided into equal installments. Such installments are to begin no earlier than August 1st and shall be scheduled for completion by no later than November 30th of each year. (Only the Executive Office can make changes to these dates, and it must be no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the first installment due date.

c. Any and all league fees paid to the FFA are non-refundable. Note: If you pay any or all of your application and/or league fees and then decide to fold, change leagues, or want your money back for any reason, you will not be entitled to a refund of any amount. Your financial commitment to the FFA will be a final transaction.

d. Teams who have had checks held or returned due to insufficient funds must pay by certified check, money order, or cash. An additional fee of \$50 will be assessed to cover the cost of an "insufficient check" bank charge.

e. Teams that owe money to the league, past the due date, are considered not in good standing and are subject to the following penalties:

i. Loss of "full membership status and thus forfeit all voting rights until debt is satisfied.

ii. When team debt occurs, a fee of \$25 per week is added to the debt until the debt is satisfied and/or paid in-full. The Football Federation Alliance (FFA) team in debt may continue to play a league scheduled opponent at their home venue, but the game(s) are forfeit wins for the opponent until the debt has been cleared.

iii. Teams not in good standing, will not be permitted to participate and/or compete in the league post-season play.

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- iv. Teams that owe money to the league do not receive any goods or services from the league.
  - v. Teams expelled, or who withdraw from the league, remain financially responsible for all debts incurred at the time of their departure from the league. Said team(s) may be replaced with another team that meet league rules consistent with entry requirements and minimum standards.
  - f. See Football Federation Alliance (FFA) membership benefits summary, available on the FFA Website, for additional information on the use of league fees by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Administration.
2. Financial obligations in relation to the daily operations of a member team are the sole responsibility of each individual member team, and include, but are not limited to:
- a. All sets of game uniforms for players, coaching staff and game day personnel that are in accordance with league rules and policies.
  - b. Team sideline ID badges.
  - c. Rental of home playing venue and all associated amenities required to meet minimum league standards.
  - d. Game Officials (referees).
  - e. Venue security personnel (certified and uniformed law enforcement officers).
  - f. Food, beverage, and other concession vendors/suppliers as applicable.
  - g. All personnel individually contracted and/or agreed upon to perform any necessary service or function on game day as required by minimum league standards (i.e., P.A. Announcer, Scoreboard/Clock Operator, Videographer, Ticket Clerk(s), Concessions personnel, Sideline Field personnel, etc.), and/or those individually contracted and/or agreed upon to perform a service or function on game day that is not required by minimum league standards.
  - h. Personal and team travel expenses. This may include, but is not limited to, motor vehicle fuel, motor vehicle operational fluids, motor vehicle maintenance and repairs, rental of passenger van(s), hiring of charter bus(es), purchase of food and beverage(s), lodging, highway tolls, etc.
  - i. Team promotion and advertising materials (i.e., posters, media ads and time, business cards, website, souvenirs, novelties, fan wear, etc.).
  - j. Gate admission of non-sideline personnel associated with their organization, or any sideline personnel associated with their organization not properly identified by both a team uniform and a team ID badge, at a visiting team playing venue, when applicable.
  - k. Nonalcoholic liquid refreshments for both teams (host and visitors) when hosting a game.

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

I. The purchase of any necessary and/or required equipment, item(s), or service(s) to actively and competitively participate in league sanctioned games, activities and/or events.

### **Rule 4.3 Deadlines**

1. Deadlines for payment of league fees, fines, etc., will be enforced. Payments that have been mailed by the US Postal service, FedEx, UPS, or any other package carrier, envelope must be mailed to the FFA's Office of Treasury and postmarked no later than the installment due date.

2. In the event that payment for any financial obligation assessed to a team and received after the deadline date and time set forth by the FFA Executive Office, a late fee (fine) of \$50 will be added to the team's outstanding financial balance.

3. In addition to the \$50 late fee as defined in Rule 4.3.2 of this section, a separate and additional late fee (fine) of \$25 per week will be assessed and added to the team's outstanding financial balance for each week of non-payment, and shall cease when payment of the outstanding debt is in-full.

### **Rule 4.4 Violations**

1. Owners will be notified of all alleged violation(s) and requested to respond within forty-eight (48) hours of the notification.

2. If the alleged violation(s) is confirmed, or if the team owner fails to respond within the (48) hour time frame, appropriate fines will be assessed.

3. If the alleged violation(s) is disputed by the team owner, further investigation will be conducted, and a final decision will be made by the Executive Office.

4. Some violations are considered obvious and do not require owner response. Such violations in this category include, but are not limited to, non-attendance at meetings, tele-conference calls/video calls, or failure to submit a financial obligation to the league at or before a published deadline. Note: A "published" deadline will be clearly noted on the league website, in an electronic communication (e-mail), or in the league rulebook.

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

### **SECTION 5 LEAGUE SCHEDULES**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 5.1 League Schedules, Definition of**

1. League schedules are defined as a printed and/or published list of sanctioned, approved and sponsored events that may include, but are not limited to, games, meetings, training clinics, educational and instructional seminars, tele-conference calls/video calls, social affairs, etc. There are seven (7) different types of schedules as noted below.

#### **Rule 5.2 Off-Season Schedule**

1. The FFA's "off-season" begins the day after the conclusion of the last day of the "FFA Championship Weekend" and concludes on August 15th of each year. This is generally a period of time reserved by the FFA for the recruiting, vetting of, voting on, and first installment of new teams for membership, as well as, the opening of the season for returning member teams.

2. The FFA's Annual Off-Season Owners Meeting shall take place after July 4th, and before August 15th. The exact date, time, and location of the Owners Meeting will be announced at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.

#### **Rule 5.3 Pre-Season Schedule**

1. The FFA's "pre-season" schedule begins on September 1st and concludes the Sunday before the first game of the "regular season". This is generally a period of time reserved by the FFA for configuring the upcoming regular season schedule, hosting any and all training clinics and educational seminars, etc.

2. The FFA does not have a pre-season scrimmage or exhibition game schedule for any team that is, was, or will potentially be associated with the FFA.

3. The FFA assumes no financial responsibility and shall be held harmless from any legal liability for any pre-season scrimmage or exhibition game played by any team/organization that is, was, or will potentially be associated with the FFA.

#### **Rule 5.4 Regular Season Schedule**

1. The FFA's "regular season" shall be conducted between the second Saturday of January and the first Saturday in May during each calendar year.

2. The FFA will try to avoid scheduling regular season games on any holiday weekend and/or "bye week" unless determined to be absolutely necessary by the FFA Executive Office.

3. The regular season shall consist of ten (10) games.

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4. A regular season schedule of games that are less than, or more than, ten (10) games must be approved by a majority vote of the league's Board of Governors.
5. Depending on the total number of teams in the league, divisions and conferences, the Executive Office will be responsible for configuring a competitive schedule for all member teams, that may, or may not, include playing any member team twice within an assigned division and/or respective conference.
6. Depending on the total number of teams in the league and assignment to each respective conference, every effort shall be made to configure a schedule of inter-conference play between member teams during the regular season.

### **Rule 5.5 Post-Season Schedule (FFA Playoffs)**

1. The league's "post-season" schedule shall begin one week after the final regular season bye week and/or final week of regular season of play, whichever applies.
2. The post-season playoff schedule shall include a "Wildcard round" in week #1, a "Divisional" round in week #2, a "Conference Championship" round in week #3, a bye-week in week #4, and culminate with the league championship, "Federation Bowl", the week after the post-season bye-week.

### **Rule 5.6 Post-Season Schedule (Non-League Sanctioned Games or Tournaments)**

1. The league assumes no financial responsibility and shall be held harmless from any legal liability for any post-season exhibition and/or tournament game played by any team/organization that is, was, or will potentially be associated with the FFA.

### **Rule 5.7 Federation Bowl (FFA Championship Game)**

1. The Football Federation Alliance Championship Game shall be officially identified and recognized as the "Federation Bowl" and is the league's signature event during "FFA Championship Weekend". Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Federation Bowl is to be scheduled no later than Memorial Day weekend.

### **Rule 5.8 Annual All-Star Game**

1. The Football Federation Alliance All-Star Game shall be officially identified and recognized as the "Annual FFA All-Star Game". Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Annual FFA All-Star Game is to be scheduled before the Alliance Bowl but conclude in adequate time for the Alliance Bowl teams to be in the locker room at least 2 full hours before kickoff of the Alliance Bowl.

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### **SECTION 6 NEW TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 6.1 New Team Membership, Definition of**

1. New Team Membership is defined as any team or organization that has been approved as a member team to play in the upcoming regular season that is either a first-time competitor in the FFA, or a previous member that competed in a season(s) prior to the previous season of play.

#### **Rule 6.2 New Team Membership Criteria**

1. For teams applying for membership into the Football Federation Alliance for the first time, or those re-applying for membership upon being out of the FFA for one or more season(s), the prospective new owner(s) must pass the FFA's vetting committee investigation and interview process. During that process, they must demonstrate to the committee financial stability, good character and willingness to meet the minimum standards of the FFA. After successfully being vetted by the committee, the new team member applicant will then go forward to the FFA's Board of Governors (returning members) for final vote. New members that are approved, are required to complete any and all preseason training and education as directed by the FFA.

2. Prospective new teams shall complete, sign, and submit the appropriate application form(s) as well as all other associated documents (proof of organization incorporation, home field/venue lease agreement, proof of General Liability Insurance Certificate, etc., as required by the FFA for the current year of operation. Every application must be accompanied by the nonrefundable "application fee" amount as previously set by the FFA.

3. The Board of Governors, via recommendation of the FFA's Vetting Committee will determine, by majority vote, the inclusion of new members based on the organization's ability to meet the minimum standards and rules of the FFA.

4. The Board of Governors, via recommendation of the Vetting Committee will determine the exclusion of any organization deemed to be "not in the best interest" of the Florida Football Alliance.

5. All new team applicant(s) must appear in-person at a meeting scheduled by league officials or appear on a league wide conference/video call, in order to participate in the "final voting" process that includes, but may not be limited to, questions submitted to the ownership of the new teams by members of the Executive Office and the Board of Governors of the FFA in relation to their business plan, annual budget, daily operations, and game day staff.

#### **Rule 6.3 Team Ownership Dissolution; Co-Owner Starting New Team**

1. In the event that a co-owner from a member team from the previous season of competition has a dispute with their partner, and said partnership dissolves for any reason, and said co-owner decides to

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start another team and/or organization, he/she may apply for membership into the Football Federation Alliance without sanction. However, the new team applicant(s) will be subject to the new team application and vetting process as described in this section.

### **Rule 6.4 Transfer of Team Ownership to New Team Ownership**

1. In the event that the ownership of a current member team decides to sell and/or transfer ownership of their organization to a new owner and/or ownership group, the new team applicant(s) will be subject to the new team application and vetting process as established in this section and is required to meet all FFA minimum standards. However, any and all team records, history, etc. associated with said team will remain with the new ownership, regardless if team should relocate and/or change its name.

### **Rule 6.5 New Team Voting Limitations; Establishment of Voting Rights**

1. New applicant(s) will not be granted voting rights until they have been approved as members of the FFA by the Executive Office and Board of Governors, have attended the new team orientation, have certified in writing that they have read and understood the FFF Administrative Rules & Policy Regulations book and have paid the league membership fee in full.



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### **SECTION 7 LEAGUE MERCHANDISE**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 7.1 League Merchandise; Definition of**

1. League Merchandise is defined as any item or product sold at retail or wholesale with the Football Federation Alliance league name, logo, acronym (FFA 2.0), or likeness, printed, painted or embroidered on same, with intent to resell for profit and/or promotion of an event, project, affair, etc. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of the name and logo of any Federation Bowl or FFA All-Star Game, or league sanctioned event.

#### **Rule 7.2 Authorization to Use League Logo, Name, Acronym, or Likeness for Merchandise Sales and/or Giveaways**

1. Other than league officials, no person or group of people or business may use the Football Federation Alliance league name, logo, acronym (FFA 2.0), or likeness, with intent to resell for profit and/or promotion of an event, project, affair, etc. in manner whatsoever without written consent and/or authorization from the Office of the FFA President.

2. Authorization to use the Football Federation Alliance league name, logo, acronym (FFA 2.0), or likeness, with intent to resell for profit and/or promotion of an event, project, affair, etc. in manner whatsoever must be submitted to the Office of the FFA President in writing via email and/or a letter sent via U.S. Mail or other commercial courier at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of merchandise production and distribution to anyone.

3. Any item or product that will bear the Football Federation Alliance league name, logo, acronym (FFA 2.0), or likeness, with intent to resell for profit and/or promotion of an event, project, affair, etc. in manner whatsoever must be approved in the form of an image “proof” and/or “model” and/or “prototype” prior to production and distribution to anyone.

4. The Football Federation Alliance reserves the right to demand a percentage of all profits of approved league merchandise sold by outside for-profit or non-profit organizations.

5. Any person, group, company, or member team, found to be in violation of any rule in this section is subject to a fine not to exceed \$500, and forfeiture of 100% of any and all profits made from sales of any and all non-approved league merchandise. Failure to comply will result in legal action against all parties associated with the violation(s).

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### **SECTION 8 MEDIA**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 8.1 Media, Definition of**

1. Media is defined as any and all outside personnel associated with and/or employed by a radio, television, newspaper, online service or magazine company that communicates their news and/or stories via traditional methods (airwaves, satellite, print, etc.) or the internet (blogs, websites, etc.).

#### **Rule 8.2 Media Protocol**

1. Press releases, news articles and/or videos and other newsworthy items concerning a member team and their players or staff that directly or indirectly affects the Football Federation Alliance should be forwarded to the league Office of the President for review and possible publication and/or republication on the league website.

2. It is strongly recommended that each member team forward all press releases or copies of printed material(s) or proof of image(s) to be used for promotional purposes or team event notifications to the league office for review to protect each member team and the FFA from unintentional embarrassment and/or mishaps due to errors, typos or grammar, etc.

3. Any request by the media for any information on the Board of Governors, Executive Office, Administrative Office, member teams, current events, or history about the Football Federation Alliance are to be directed to the FFA Senior Vice President.

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### SECTION 9 MEMBER TEAM WEBSITES

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Rule 9.1 Member Team Websites, Definition of

1. A Member Team Website is defined as a connected group of pages on the World Wide Web directly associated with a member team of the FFA that is usually maintained and/or updated as needed by the member team.

#### Rule 9.2 Member Team Website Standards

1. All teams are required to have a website online and active by no later than thirty (30) days upon acceptance into the FFA.

2. Once setup and online, each member team is required to maintain, update and keep their website current.

3. Every team member website must contain the following page(s) and content:

a. "Home" or "Main" page with an up to date team logo, current FFA logo with a direct link to its respective website URL, along with any and all images/logos of FFA corporate sponsors and a direct link to their respective website(s).

b. "About Us" or "About Our Team" page listing team information (i.e., type of organization, activities, goals, philosophy, etc.), and a "mission statement". Team Board Members can be listed on this page as well, or can be listed on a separate page such as "Staff", etc.

c. "Contact" or "Contact Us" page that includes, but is not limited to, legal team name and mailing address. The legal team name is defined as the name that is currently on file with that team's respective state Division of Corporations and/or similar governing agency or office. This page must also include a telephone number, as well as a valid email address. A fax number is recommended, but not required.

NOTE: If your incorporated name is different from your team name you must include your team name as a d/b/a: and have a "fictitious name" document on-file with the respective state Division of Corporations and/or similar governing agency or office of the state in which your team is domiciled in.

d. "Venue", "Field", "Stadium" or "Facilities" page listing the exact name of the site, physical street address (city, state & zip code included), and travel directions from a major highway and/or roadway (i.e., I-95, Florida Turnpike, US Highway, State Road, etc.). A map, or a link to an internet map, as well as photo(s) of the site and/or facility are strongly recommended, but not required.

e. "Coaches" or "Staff" page listing the full names of the Head Coach, and Assistant Coaches. The listing of other team or game day personnel (i.e., yard marker/chain crew, water boy, equipment manager, ball

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boy, P.A. Announcer, DJ, concessions, etc.) is optional. This information may be included on a team's "Roster" page and substitute for the "Coaches" page, when applicable. If using the label of "Staff" for this page, it is permissible to list the team Board Members on a separate page.

f. "Roster" page listing the jersey number, full name, position, and any other associated information of all players on the team in accordance with FFA rules. The listing of the coaching staff is permitted on this page when applicable. Player roster information must be posted no later than January 1st of each year. Said roster information does not have to be a "final" or "permanent" roster, but rather one that is a "work in-progress". The "final" roster is due to be posted on a team website by no later than 72 hours prior to game #1 of the regular season and must be updated weekly.

g. "Schedule" page listing any applicable scheduled pre-season exhibition or scrimmage games, all regular season, and applicable post-season games, detailing their date, time, location and score. Each team's regular season game schedule is required to be posted by no later than seven (7) calendar days upon receiving such from the league. This page is required to be updated weekly during the regular season, and post-season, when applicable.

h. The following page(s) would be "optional":

i. "News" or "Team News" page listing current team events, activities, news articles, etc.

ii. "Board" or "Board of Directors" page listing a team member's Board of Directors and their respective position(s).

### **Rule 9.3 Inspection, Approval and Certification of Member Team Website**

1. The FFA President, Sr. Vice President, or Vice President of League Affairs is responsible for the inspection and monitoring of each Member Team Website. Two (2) inspections will be conducted and a copy of the inspection report will be submitted to the member team via email. The first inspection is for educational purposes only but requires action on the part of the member team to fix and resolve any issues noted in said report within five (5) business of notification. Failure to correct any issue noted in the first inspection report will result in a fine.

2. The second and final inspection determines final league approval and certification of a member team website. Any issues and/or violations of the minimum website standards are to be corrected and/or resolved immediately (within 24-hours of notification) in order to avoid a fine.

3. Once a member team website has been approved and recognized as meeting minimum league standards as listed in this section, the FFA President will issue a "certification" and an appropriate league seal identifying such that is to be posted on the home or main page of the member team website. Once certification has been awarded, the member team is required to maintain and update their website as required through the end of the season.

### **Rule 9.4 Website Excellence Award**

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1. Any member team website that exceeds the minimum standards set forth in this section, passes a 2nd website inspection with no violations or corrections required, and includes pages similar to what is listed in the rules, shall be awarded a league "Website Excellence Award" with an appropriate seal. The seal can then be posted on the home or main page of the member team website.

### **Rule 9.5 Prohibited Postings and Publication; Fines and Discipline**

1. Any posting, image, or message that is displayed on any page or any section of a team member's website that is deemed to be in any manner as offensive, vulgar, profane, abusive, threatening, or promotes the act of violence, either real or imagined, is strictly prohibited and is in violation of the FFA Internet and Social Media Policy.
2. Any team found to be in violation of Rule(s) 9.1 or 9.2, is subject to a league written reprimand and/or an imposed fine not to exceed \$100, per violation.
3. Any team found to be in violation of Rule 9.5.1 is subject to a league imposed fine not to exceed \$250, on the 1st offence. A 2nd violation by a team will result in a league imposed fine not to exceed \$500, and a forfeit on their next scheduled regular, or post-season, game. A 3rd violation will result in expulsion from the league.
4. Any team found to be in violation of the time period for correction and/or updating a member team website is subject to a league imposed fine of \$25 per violation, but not to exceed \$100, on the 1st offence. Any team found to be in violation of the time period for correction and/or updating a member team website after the second inspection is subject to a league imposed fine of \$50 per violation, but not to exceed \$300.
5. Any fine assessed for a violation of this section that goes unpaid upon a deadline set by the Executive Administration of the Football Federation Alliance will carry an additional daily penalty of \$25 until the original assessed fine is paid in-full to the league.

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### **SECTION 10 MEMBER TEAM UNIFORMS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 10.1 Member Team Uniforms for Players and Staff, Definition of**

1. A Member Team Uniform for a player is defined as that of a regulation protective football helmet, a football game jersey with an approved contrasting number on the front and back, a set of integrated football pants, and a pair of football socks that are appropriately coordinated in team colors.
2. A Member Team Uniform for coach and/or coaching staff is defined as a casual type sport polo or shirt with a collar and a pair of shorts or trousers that are appropriately coordinated in team colors.
3. A Member Team Uniform for a game day or team executive staff is defined as a casual type sport polo or shirt with a collar, or T-Shirt, that is appropriately coordinated in team colors.

#### **Rule 10.2 General Information**

1. NFL game rules apply unless specific exceptions are noted. Uniformity includes but is not limited to numbering, jerseys, pants, leg coverings, helmets protective gear, pads and exposed undergarments.

#### **Rule 10.3 Requirements**

1. Each member team in the FFA is required to have a set of light and a set of dark jerseys.
2. Home team selects color of jersey to be worn before each game (opponent to be notified during "Tuesday Call").
3. There is a team fine of \$250 per game if the appropriate jersey is not worn during a league sanctioned game.
4. Uniformity of socks color is mandatory and should be selected by the team owner or a team committee.
5. No skin is to be showing below the knees. Leggings in team colors that match the other players on the field of the same team is acceptable as an approved replacement for socks but should also incorporate the rule of "uniformity".
6. A player will not be permitted to participate in any league sanctioned game until the uniform follows the rules in place. If a player is caught to be in violation, he must be given an opportunity to correct that violation, but after said notification, he then will be considered to be in violation of rule. In addition, game or league officials will report uniform noncompliance as a standards violation of the FFA.
7. Chin straps uniformity is not mandatory and is free to be selected by individual players.

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8. Award decals of up to 1" x 1" may be placed on back of helmets. Posting of the American Flag is allowed, but optional. Teams hosting a special "awareness" and/or "charity cause" event that desire to post a decal (maximum 1" x 1" in size) depicting their involvement (i.e., Breast Cancer, US Troops Support, etc.) is allowed, but optional. NOTE: Other than "award" decals, any other decal placed on a player's helmet must be on every player's helmet and positioned in the same place on all helmets. No exceptions.

9. Memorial patches for player jerseys or helmet decals of similar type (maximum 1" x 1" in size) for a deceased player or staff member is permissible but requires league authorization prior to being worn for game use.

10. Uniform accessories such as towels, wristbands, arm bands and pads, that are not in team colors due to the participation of a special "awareness" or "charity cause" event is permissible but requires league authorization prior to being worn for game use. Player gloves are exempt from this rule.

11. Player football shoes/cleats bottoms should be rubber or plastic (studs) only. No metal bottom cleats are permissible.

12. All offensive linemen must wear jersey numbers that range from 50-79 or 90-99. The only exception to this rule is if a team has run out of any remaining eligible offensive linemen and must use another positioned player at that position, and also on special plays when an ineligible numbered player checks in as "ineligible" with the referee.

13. No player shall have any undergarment and/or clothing exposed outside of their uniform whatsoever at any time during a game, regardless of the color of said undergarment and/or clothing, except for "compression" type undergarment material of which must be in that of the player's team color(s), and only the sleeves of such compression type undergarment can be exposed. Cold weather undergarments are allowed for cold weather games but must be white, black, or team color.

### **Rule 10.4 Spatting**

1. Tape must not exceed 3-inches above ankle bone.

2. Tape should be either black, white or team color.

### **Rule 10.5 Coaching Staff and Game Day Staff Uniforms**

1. Members of a coaching staff are required to wear matching sports shirts and/or casual polo shirts with a collar, or a T-shirt, in their team colors. A team name, logo, mascot, or emblem is strongly recommended to be printed or embroidered on same but is not mandatory.

2. The head coach is the only member of the staff who is permitted to wear a different and/or "alternate" type shirt as described herein that is in team colors.

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3. Members of a coaching staff are required to wear matching shorts or trousers in their team colors. There can be no mix and match of the two (i.e., some in shorts, some in trousers, etc.).
4. Members of the “game day staff” are required to wear matching sports shirts and/or casual polo shirts with a collar, or T-shirts, in their team colors. A team name, logo, mascot, or emblem is strongly recommended to be printed or embroidered on same but is not mandatory.
5. Ball caps or visors can be worn by any coaching staff or “game day staff” member, as long as the head gear worn is in team colors. A team name, logo, mascot, or emblem is strongly recommended to be printed or embroidered on same but is not mandatory.
6. No coach, staff member, or member of ownership is allowed to have a bookbag on the sidelines. The only exceptions are identified trainers and medical personnel.

### **Rule 10.6 Fine Schedule for Violations of Section-10**

1. Any person who violates the minimum uniform standards listed in this section is subject to a fine, some form of suspension or a combination of both, per violation but fine shall not exceed a total of \$100 per occurrence. All fines for uniform violations must be paid no later than 24-hours prior to the next scheduled league sanctioned game, or the violator will not be permitted to participate in any league sanctioned games until the total amount of the fine is paid in-full.
2. Fines that haven’t been paid before the next game will result in being ineligible to play, coach, or work in the game.



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### **SECTION 11            GAME DAY PREPARATION**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 11.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Official league meeting" is defined as an event and/or affair where the gathering of member team owners and/or their designated representative in person, by teleconference or by video conferencing, is required to attend and/or participate.
  
2. A "safe field" is defined as a playing venue that is safe for the players, the team staff and the fans.
  - a. The field must have an acceptable playing surface void of holes, divots, foreign material and/or debris that could cause injury to any person who walks and/or runs upon such in the course of pre-game or game time activities.
  
  - b. A safe field must be properly marked and meet NFL standards related to size in both feet and yards.
  
  - c. A safe field must be within a 5-mile radius of a fire house and/or medical center (hospital) in the event of a serious injury sustained and/or health issue experienced by any participant during a game.
  
  - d. A safe field must have benches on both sidelines to accommodate no less than 20 players at any time.
  
  - e. A safe field must include lights that adequately illuminate both the field of play and parking lot area.
  
  - f. A safe field must not have objects around it that pose a threat to player safety, such as broken fences with pipes sticking out or metal equipment nearby.
  
3. A "game must be played" is defined as simply the game must be played as scheduled and/or re-scheduled by the league. This is regardless of the personal and/or organizational issues of either team owner involved. If a game needs to be postponed or cancelled it must be submitted to the FFA President for consideration and must be officially approved.
  
4. "Severe inclement weather and/or personal health threatening conditions" are defined as weather or natural health situations that is unsafe and/or beyond that of which is considered to be normal and includes, but is not limited to, a pandemic, epidemic, lightning, high winds and rain, hail, hurricanes, tornados, etc.
  
5. "On-Field personnel" is defined as coaches, trainers, equipment managers, game officials, chain crew staff, media, photographers, videographers, ball and hydration staff, and/or those of which have a position that is vital to the standard operation of a league sanctioned game
  
6. "Day" games are defined as those of which are played during the daylight hours of a day with a non-standard kickoff time that's not between 5:00 pm and 7:05 pm. An "afternoon game" is defined as any kickoff scheduled between the hours of 12:00 pm to 4:59 pm.

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### Rule 11.2 Team Owner/Representative Communication

1. TUESDAY CONFERENCE CALL: Every team owner and/or their designated representative is required to attend and/or participate in the weekly "Tuesday Video Conference Call". It is an official league meeting and is subject to fines for any absences or leaving early without prior FFA President approval.

### Rule 11.3 Playing Venue; Field Issues

1. Due to circumstances beyond the control of team owners, game sites may become unavailable on certain dates and/or times. Owners are permitted to change the location of their playing venue provided that said facility meets minimum league standards and has the approval of the FFA President or Sr. Vice President and all necessary information including traveling directions have been shared with appropriate personnel.

a. If the site does not meet minimum league standards, the home team owner can be fined for each non-conforming area and/or amenity.

2. When a home team's field is not available for whatever reason, the game shall be played at an alternate venue that meets minimum standards of the FFA. The FFA has a "game must be played" policy.

a. A game may be moved to the opponent's home playing venue, if available. If a game is switched to the opponents playing venue, it must be done within one of the following agreed upon options and have prior approval of the chosen option from the FFA Sr. Vice President;

- i. If the opponents have a "home and home" date, the games may be switched, if possible
- ii. If the game is switched, the originally scheduled home team will still be responsible for all expenses pertaining to the game, but will also receive the proceeds from gate receipts, as well as, concessions (if team provided concession inventory).
- iii. If the game is switched, the originally scheduled visiting team is responsible for all expenses pertaining to the game, but will also receive the proceeds from the gate, as well as, the concessions (if team provided concession inventory).
- iv. If the game is switched, both teams will split all expenses associated with the game, as well as, all revenue generated from gate receipts and concessions (provided both teams had concession inventory)

b. In the event that the opponent's own playing venue is not available, then owners from both teams will be required to locate a "safe field" to play on even if it doesn't meet all of the league standards.

c. Any "safe field" chosen to be played upon that does not have adequate lighting installed for both the field of play and for the parking area, cannot be used for night games. In this case the game must be played during daylight hours and must receive approval from the FFA Sr. Vice President.

3. Owners, by mutual consent, are permitted to change the date and time of a scheduled league sanctioned game.

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- a. Before a game schedule can be changed the availability of game officials must be confirmed.
- b. All changes to date, location or time of a game must be approved by the FFA Sr. Vice President.

### **4. Game Field Problem Action Plan:**

a. Locate another field that meets all league standards and immediately notify the FFA Sr. Vice President and Vice President of Officials of the change in venue name, address, and any change in time of kickoff. Such notification must be made by both telephone and email. Once the FFA Sr. Vice President and Vice President of Officials have been updated on any new playing venue information, notification of said information must be made by email to the following: FFA President and league Secretary.

b. In the event that an alternate playing venue cannot be found and/or is unavailable, the FFA Sr. Vice President is to be notified to review all reasonable options. If all available and reasonable options have been exhausted in the search for a “suitable” or “acceptable” playing venue, a game will be re-scheduled to an open “bye” week. If a bye week is not available and no other options exist, the game will be ruled a forfeit by the home team.

### **5. Games can be cancelled and/or postponed due to the following:**

a. Severe inclement weather and/or personal health threatening conditions, at kickoff, or during a scheduled game, that has not been played through regulation as defined by league rules.

b. Transportation issues experienced by game officials and opponents in route to a playing venue that have been delayed or prevented from arriving due to severe inclement weather, traffic conditions, or the disablement of a vehicle due to mechanical and/or electrical malfunction.

## **Rule 11.4 On-Field Personnel Identification**

1. All on-field personnel are to be in possession of and/or wearing a team or league identification badge any time they are on the field of play, prior to, and during a league sanctioned game for security purposes. The home team has the option of allowing a team shirt to be substituted for on-field personnel identification purposes, or can issue the opposing team “temporary” ID badges during their visit to the home team’s playing venue

2. Any person(s) on the field without a team or league identification badge or team staff shirt are considered “non-essential” personnel and shall be required to observe the game from the bleachers and/or grandstand area. They are also subject to the current gate admission price charged to all fans in attendance.

## **Rule 11.5 Gate Admission**

1. Teams are not required to provide comp (free) tickets for any league sanctioned games.

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2. Home team sets gate admission ticket prices, and rules associated with fan entry time.

### **Rule 11.6 Scheduled Game Day; Kick-Off Time(s)**

1. The official game day is Saturday but can be re-scheduled for Sunday or another day during the week upon approval by the FFA President. No league sanctioned game is to be scheduled within 72-hours of either team's next scheduled league sanctioned game.

2. Standard FFA game kick-off times are 5:00 PM to 7:05 PM. Any deviation from this time frame requires approval by the FFA President and Vice President of Officiating.

3. No game is to be scheduled for or start after 8:00 PM.

4. Saturday "day" games are permitted if predetermined and approved by the FFA President and Vice President of Officiating.

5. No team will be required to travel more than two (2) hours to play a game with a start time earlier than that of a 5:00 pm kickoff (based on Google Maps travel time).

6. If an owner wishes to change from the Saturday game day and/or the standard FFA game kickoff time(s) after the original schedule has been released, the change must be also agreed upon by the opposing team owner.

7. Once a schedule has been issued by the league; team owners, their administrative personnel, game day staff, coaches, and players are to make arrangements with both family and their employers regarding personal and work schedules, respectively.

8. In the event a change is made to the regular season schedule that adversely affects the opponent and thus creates an unfair advantage for the home team, the opponent has the option of refusing the change to a non-traditional kick-off time and/or "day" game.

9. Any game day change approved by the FFA President requires that the home team owner meet all notification requirements defined in Rule 11.3.4.

### **Rule 11.7 Game Day Staffing**

1. Game Officials:

a. Game officials for all league sanctioned games are scheduled by the Vice President of Officiating in advance.

b. The Vice President of Officiating is to be updated at all times as to the confirmation of game date, kick-off time, playing venue location, etc. by the home team owner and/or their designated team representative.

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c. Game Officials are to be paid for their services by the home team owner and/or their designated team representative prior to the second half kick-off of any league sanctioned game.

d. The rate of pay to be paid for each game official working any one game will be that of which has been established by the league prior to the start of the regular season.

### **2. Game Security Personnel:**

a. Uniform law enforcement personnel that are certified in the State of Florida with arrest powers are to be scheduled prior to the date of any scheduled game. It is recommended that requests for off-duty officers be made no less than thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled game date so as to allow the agency being hired adequate time to schedule the number of needed personnel.

b. A minimum of two (2) law enforcement officers are required at all league sanctioned games. However, additional law enforcement personnel may be requested by the playing venue operator.

c. Payment of law enforcement security services are the sole responsibility of the home team.

### **3. Chain Crew:**

a. A chain crew must consist of three individuals who are 16 years of age or older. They must wear safety vests (international orange, yellow or green in color) and are to refrain from comments to officials and other on-field personnel.

### **4. Ball and Hydration Personnel:**

a. There should be one person assigned as a ball boy and one as a hydration (water, sports drinks, etc.) person. They must be at least 14 years of age or older.

b. Ball and hydration personnel are required to wear sideline safety vests (international orange, yellow or green in color) and must refrain from comments to officials and other on-field personnel.

c. Teams are subject to fines for violation of the age restrictions or uncontrolled comments from sideline personnel.

### **5. Public Address (P.A.) Announcer:**

a. The public address announcer should obtain both team rosters 45-minutes before kickoff for player identification purposes during their broadcast of the game. They must have the rosters no later than 15-minutes before kickoff.

b. The public address announcer should review the opposing player roster in their possession and clarify pronunciation with the opposing team before the start of the game.

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

c. Public Service Announcements such as the remaining home team schedule, upcoming team events and fund raisers, league scores (if available) and standings, concession and sales information, honored guests (VIP's), etc. should be part of the recommended program.

d. Cheerleading, inappropriate comments, and/or supplying information over the P.A. system which would assist either team is not allowed.

### **6. Scoreboard Operator; Clock Operator:**

a. The scoreboard and clock operator may be two separate people, or one person may have both duties.

b. The scoreboard operator's duty is to keep the game score and information related to "down" and "yards-to-go" updated.

c. The primary duty of the clock operator is to keep an accurate game clock. This is done by starting and stopping the game clock as instructed by the Crew Chief of Game Officials via hand sign notification from the field of play. Keep in mind that the scoreboard clock "IS NOT" the official clock that governs a game.

d. In the event that the scoreboard operator and the clock operator are one and the same, proper and accurate operation of the game clock becomes the primary duty, and the game score and down and distance becomes a secondary duty.

e. Clock operators and/or timekeepers that are registered game officials and associated with the crew of game officials assigned to a game are to be paid in accordance with the lesser rate for clock operators as established by the FFA.

### **7. Gate Admission Personnel:**

a. The following rules apply to gate admission personnel:

i. All fan entry points for admission must be manned at all times.

ii. All gate admission personnel must be at least 18 years old.

iii. No alcohol is to be permitted into the playing venue at any time.

iv. Intoxicated fans are not to be admitted and on-site law enforcement personnel must be notified as soon as possible for the safety and welfare of all involved, including the intoxicated person(s).

### **8. Game Day Staff Director, Manager; Site Supervisor**

a. It is recommended that each home team designate a member of their organization as the "Game Day Staff Manager". During every home game they will manage and/or supervise game day staff personnel and carry out various duties to insure steady and uninterrupted operation. I.e.; (payment of game

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Officials manages game day personnel and handle questions and requests from opposing team personnel, etc.). This job may be performed by the owner if he does not have too many other jobs on game day.

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### **SECTION 12        SIDELINE PROCEDURES**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 12.1    Definition(s)**

1. The “sideline control coach” is defined as the person responsible for maintaining control of player conduct and sideline activity during any league sanctioned game. The sideline control coach is responsible for ensuring that all non-participating players and coaching staff personnel remain off of the field of play and inside the designated coaching box and/or associated team area, or on the bench.
2. “Non-field” areas are defined as the sections where the bleachers and/or grandstands are located, public restrooms, concessions, parking lot, and all areas behind the fence that separates the field from the field of play.

#### **Rule 12.2    Sideline Protocol**

1. Sidelines are to be clear of all personal bags (tote bags, book bags, equipment bags, etc.) that are not the property of the team, trainer or any medical personnel.
2. Coaches and sideline personnel must look uniform in accordance with Rule 10.5.
3. There must be a minimum of three (3) sideline staff one of which should be identified prior to the game as the “sideline control coach”.
4. Coaches and staff are to be identified by matching uniform coaching shirts.
5. All team personnel including coaches, trainers, managers, media, photographers, etc. must be in possession of and/or wearing a sideline pass and/or team identification badge or uniform shirt.
6. No unauthorized person(s) are to be permitted on the sidelines during team warmups or during any league sanctioned game (i.e., children, family, fans, etc.).
7. Home team ownership must require and publicly announce that all fans must be in the grandstands or other non-field areas of the playing venue at all times during a league sanctioned game. The announcement should include that the game will be stopped unless all comply.
  - a. In the event that that this matter becomes an issue, home management must stop the game and have the official alert both benches that the game will not continue until all unauthorized personnel have vacated the sidelines and on-field area of the playing venue and have been properly located in the bleachers and/or grandstand area.
  - b. If any fans, team personnel, or players refuse to cooperate with said request, on-duty law enforcement personnel are to be summoned for assistance in clearing the area and/or escorting said persons from the playing venue.



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c. Uncooperative team personnel and players will be subject to disciplinary action by the league with may include suspension from future game participation and/or a fine.

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### **SECTION 13        GAME BALLS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 13.1    Definition(s)**

1. An “official football” is defined as one constructed of 100% cowhide leather panels tan brown and stamped with a pebble-grain texture to help players grip the ball. Some or all of the panels may be stamped with the manufacturer's name and league logo of either the Football Federation Alliance or the National Football League (NFL).

2. An “official report” to the league is defined as any written communication received via email or traditional mail detailing the events and activities of a game or incident that may or may not include a violation of league rules, and is submitted by a member team owner and/or their team representative or game official.

#### **Rule 13.2    Game Ball Requirements**

1. Official game balls of the Football Federation Alliance (FFA) are the Official Wilson NFL Duke footballs.

2. The ball shall be inflated to 12 – 13.5 lbs.

3. The home team is responsible for supplying game balls, however a visiting team may supply their own.

4. In case of rain or a wet, muddy, or slippery field, a playable ball shall be used at the request of the offensive team's center. The Game Clock shall not stop for such action (unless undue delay occurs).

5. A minimum of two (2) game balls in very good condition are to be made available for use during any league sanctioned game.

6. If all game balls supplied by the home team have been deemed as “unacceptable” for play by the Crew Chief of game officials for whatever reason, the visiting team will be called upon to supply game balls to finish said game. In the event that such an incident has been officially reported to the league, the home team may be fined \$250.

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### **SECTION 14        VIDEOTAPING**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 14.1    Definition(s)**

1. A “team practice” is defined as an activity that is a non-league sanctioned game, a nonexhibition game, any non-jamboree event, or any non-scrimmage, and includes “walkthrough’s”, inter-squad scrimmage(s), and any other type of workout or training session.
2. A “scrimmage” is defined as a non-league sanctioned game that is generally a controlled affair between two opposing teams, unaffiliated with the other, and may or may not include game officials.

#### **Rule 14.2    Game Film Protocol**

1. All teams are strongly encouraged to film all of their games.
2. Teams are prohibited from filming an opposing member team’s practice(s).
3. Teams are permitted to film any league sanctioned game, jamboree, exhibition game, or scrimmage, but may be required to pay an admission fee by host team, unless your team is the opponent in said game.
4. Teams are strongly encouraged to agree upon the exchange of game film upon request by a member team. If the host team is unable to participate in a film exchange, then the host team must allow the visiting team to film the game without charging an admission fee.
5. The use of any type of drone equipment is prohibited to be used at any FFA sanctioned event without written permission from the FFA President or Sr. Vice President.

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### **SECTION 15 PRESS BOX MANAGEMENT**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 15.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Noise" shall be defined as any recording of "sound effects" or the like, to include but not limited to, joke recitals, quote recordings, commercial ads, etc.
2. "Decorum" shall be defined as dignified and proper behavior, personal conduct, speech, dress, etc.

#### **Rule 15.2 General Information**

1. Pre-prepared pre-game announcements should be provided to the P.A. announcer prior to the start of the game. The announcements should include the following:
  - a. A welcome message to the fans.
  - b. Instructions on the location of the concession stand and public restrooms.
  - c. Recognition of special guests or VIP's.
  - d. Ticket information.
  - e. Introduction of officials, teams, owners, and coaching staff.
  - f. Venue rules to ensure the safety of all fans in attendance.
  - g. Home team's remaining game schedule.
  - h. Score of a previous game played at home or on the road.
  - i. Any available team or league news.
2. During the game, the P.A. announcer should inform the fans of the current down, distance, yardage gain, ball carrier, infraction, tacklers, score, etc.

#### **Rule 15.3 Music and Noise Level**

1. No music will be played from the time a team breaks the huddle until the play is blown dead and/or during a penalty. This can disrupt the officials' ability to effectively communicate with team captain(s) and/or head coaches and make on-field announcements of the call.
2. The music or noise level during a game should not interfere with fans being able to hear each other talk. The music and noise must not interfere with press box personnel. If a spotter has difficulty

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communicating with his sideline because of noise, he/she should request assistance from the sideline staff that is requesting a ruling from the official on the field. The on-field official will determine if the amplified noise level is interfering with game and will direct the home team to rectify the matter immediately.

3. Any violation of Rule 15.3.1 or Rule 15.3.2 in this section is subject to a minimum fine of \$50, and a maximum fine of \$250.

### **Rule 15.4 Team Rosters**

1. Team rosters must be delivered to the announcer by no later than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
2. The announcer should review name pronunciations with a representative from the opposing team.
3. Obtaining rosters on game day is the responsibility of the home team.
4. The visiting team is responsible to provide 2 printed copies of their team's roster with accurate player names and numbers.
5. The announcer should not request a roster via announcement over the public announcement system.

### **Rule 15.5 Press Box Decorum**

1. Decorum in the press box should be respectful and professional at all times. Unauthorized and/or non-essential personnel should not occupy the press box before or during any league sanctioned game.

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### **SECTION 16 WEATHER**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 16.1 Definition(s)**

1. "CDC" is the Center for Disease Control.
2. "NOAA" is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.
3. "NCAA" is the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
4. "NFL" is the National Football League.

#### **Rule 16.2 General Information**

1. As it pertains to weather, upon his/her arrival, the Head Official and/or Crew Chief of game officials is in-charge of the game. Upon his call, or by law enforcement personnel on-duty, or by agreement of both owners, game play is to be suspended due to danger of lightning or other severe inclement weather.
2. In the case of lightning, a lightning App should be supplied by the home team to confirm safe distance from lightning. If an App is not available, contact with a local news agency or weather center should be made to obtain information about such upon providing the exact address location of the playing venue.

#### **Rule 16.3 Inclement Weather Procedures**

1. Lightning Strike or Severe Inclement Weather Begins:
  - a. The Crew Chief of game officials gives notice that both teams, on-field staff, media, etc. are to exit the field of play and seek immediate shelter.
  - b. The P.A. announcer is to direct the fans to seek immediate shelter in a protected area or in their vehicles in the venue parking lot.
  - c. In the case of a lightning strike, a minimum 30-minute<sup>1</sup> suspension of play is to take place after the first strike.
  - d. In the case of severe inclement weather (non-lightning strike), a maximum of 45-minutes (or longer if agreed upon by both owners) suspension of play is to occur to allow a storm to pass.
  - e. If inclement weather does not pass, and three quarters of play have not been completed, the game is considered as, "incomplete", and will be postponed and re-scheduled to resume play in its entirety during the next available bye week, provided there is a bye week remaining in the schedule. If the game has no significance, and if both owners agree that it has no significance, the game need not be played and/or resumed and will be officially ruled as, "incomplete".

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1 As recommended by the CDC, NOAA, NCAA, and NFL.

### **SECTION 17            RUNNING CLOCK**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 17.1    Definition(s)**

1. A “running clock” is defined as a game clock that remains running at all times throughout the remainder of a game, even when there is an out-of-bounds play, penalty, etc. The only time a running clock is to be stopped is in the event of an injury on the field, or time-out by one of the head coaches.
2. “Mandatory” is defined as required by rule.

#### **Rule 17.2    Running Clock Requests**

1. At any time during a game a head coach, or owner, may request that the Head Official and/or Crew Chief of game officials begin a running clock. The referee will then check with the opposing head coach and/or owner and if mutually agreed upon, the clock will run with the exception of a time out or player injury. The referee must inform both benches of the start of a running clock.

#### **Rule 17.3    Mandatory Running Clock**

1. A mandatory running clock will take effect when at the beginning of the 4th quarter if one team is behind by 30 or more points. The running clock can begin earlier in any league sanctioned game upon mutual agreement from both teams.
2. In the event a game has started late for whatever reason (weather, late arrival of visiting team due to transportation issues, prior event at location ran late, etc.), and said game must be completed before a specified time due to local municipal or county ordinance, or by rules established by the operator of the playing venue, a mandatory running clock will take effect to comply with “game must be played” policy. This type of running clock requires approval of the FFA President or Sr. Vice President prior to starting the running clock.

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### **SECTION 18        PRE-GAME SCHEDULE**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 18.1    Definition(s)**

1. The “host” team shall be defined as the home team.

#### **Rule 18.2    General Information**

1. To ensure that games begin on time the following pre-game time schedule should be followed by the host team.

#### **Rule 18.3    Pre-Game Time Schedule**

1. 45-minutes before a scheduled kick-off a secure dressing room for Game Officials must be made available.
2. 35-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Game Officials must arrive on-site and be met by a team representative and directed to the Officials dressing room.
3. 30-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Game Day Staff Manager/Field Manager<sup>1</sup> and visiting team representative provide P.A. announcer with roster including number/name.
4. 30-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, teams electronic rosters are to be checked by team administrators and/or Game Officials.
5. 25-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Referee and Umpire should meet with head coach and/or owner. Head coach informs Referee of information pertaining to team Captain(s), unusual plays, any special field issues or information, special pre-game or half-time events, and inspection of two (3) “game” footballs.
6. 10-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Ball personnel should be escorted to the Line Judge for instructions.
7. 10-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Chain Crew of three (3) persons should report to the Head Linesman for instructions.
8. 10-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Game Day Staff Manager/Field Manager<sup>1</sup> for home team is responsible to get both head coaches to line up their players for the playing of the U.S. National Anthem.
9. 6:57 pm, or 8-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, U.S. National Anthem.
10. 7:00 pm, or 5-minutes before a scheduled kick-off, Coin toss.



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11. 7:05 pm, or time pre-approved by the FFA President, Kick-off.

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### **SECTION 19        GAME OFFICIALS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 19.1    Definition(s)**

1. For the purposes of this section, the Football Federation Alliance rulebook, and applicable administrative policies, “game officials” are defined as referees.
2. “League Officials” are defined as members of the FFA Board of Directors and Executive Administration.
3. “Board of Governors” are defined as the FFA member Owners.

#### **Rule 19.2    Fees for Services and Payment Protocol**

##### 1. Fee Schedule

- a. There are two different payment schedules for Game Officials. The schedules are to be negotiated and set, prior to the beginning of each regular season. These schedules will be agreed upon by the league and the FFA Executive Administration, FFA Board of Governors and FFA Vice President of Officiating.
- b. Schedule-A defines fees per Game Official for regular season and post-season league sanctioned games.
- c. Schedule-B defines fees per Game Official for the Federation Bowl (league championship game), and the FFA All-Star Game. This schedule shall be a five (\$5) dollar increase per Game Official above the Schedule-A rate agreed upon by the league and the Vice President of Officiating.
- d. A registered and trained Game Official that has been hired as a Clock Operator and/or Timekeeper by the host team for a league sanctioned game shall be paid at the lessor rate of a Clock Operator.
- e. Rate of pay will be announced to the Board of Governors upon having a signed agreement with the FFA Executive Administration and the Vice President of Officiating.

#### **Rule 19.3    Method of Payment**

1. The FFA recommends that game officials are paid in cash. The exact amount should be put in individual envelopes and paid at halftime.
2. If you cannot pay in cash then you may pay by money order. The money orders must be made out for the exact amount for each official, placed in individual envelopes and paid at halftime. The name should not be written on the money order (leave blank) until game day in case of lastminute changes.

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3. No game officials shall officiate and/or work the second half without payment.

### **Rule 19.4 Halftime Requirements**

1. Officials are to be provided a half time meeting area and liquid refreshments (sports drink, coffee, soda, etc.).

### **Rule 19.5 Protocol for Game Officials**

1. The FFA President will be responsible for ensuring that the league has an executed agreement with the Vice President of Officiating and its governing body from year-to-year.

2. All league regular season games should have six (6) on-field officials and one timekeeper and/or clock operator who must be a registered official. All league playoff games should have six (6) on field officials and one timekeeper and/or clock operator and the Federation Bowl should have seven (7) on-field officials and one timekeeper and/or clock operator who must be a registered official.

3. No game is to be played with less than five (5) on-field officials. Less than five (5) on field officials will result in the cancellation and/or postponement of a scheduled game. The use of the clock operator and/or timekeeper that is also a registered game official is permitted.

4. If the clock operator and/or timekeeper is also a registered game official and needs to be used as an on-field Game Official, the Vice President of Officiating must approve it via cell phone before the start of the game.

5. The clock operator and/or timekeeper shall record all violations as back-up documentation for on-field game officials and is responsible for keeping accurate time on the game clock only. Game score, down, distance, quarter, etc. is the responsibility of the Scoreboard Operator.

6. Game Officials for the Federation Bowl are to be assigned by Vice President of Officiating.

7. The Vice President of Officiating will provide the names, email addresses, and contact phone number of all league Head Officials and/or Crew Chief of Game Officials to member team owners before the start of the regular season and provide updates as needed.

8. Owners must communicate with the Director of Officials and FFA Sr. Vice President immediately if any change in playing venue occurs.

9. The Vice President of Officiating must take part in the mandatory Tuesday league conference call with owners and league officials to verify the schedule, date, time and location of the playing venues for all league games for that week.

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10. Each Crew Chief of Game Officials and/or Head Official assigned to work a league sanctioned game is responsible for the completion of a game report and submit it to the Vice President of Officiating, no later than 7:00 PM, Monday, following a weekend game, or no more than 48-hours upon completion of a weekday game.

11. The Crew Chief of Game Officials will document that the team's roster verification took place prior to kick-off in their weekly game report.

12. The Vice President of Officiating is responsible for submitting individual game reports received from each Crew Chief of Game Officials and/or Head Official each week to the FFA President by no later than 7:00 PM every Tuesday after a weekend game, or no more than 72-hours after a weekday game. The FFA President will then distribute same to all owners and league officials.

### **Rule 19.6 Complaints**

1. Officiating procedures shall follow NFL rules with some modifications.

2. Rulings of game officials are final and non-rescindable. NFL rules do not recognize protests, and neither does the FFA.

3. Head coaches may request on-field interpretation of a rule, as per NFL rules, and may visit with the game officials at half time for clarification of such.

4. Head Coaches are the only people who may communicate with game officials during the game from the sideline. Head coaches are to communicate with game officials in a professional manner.

5. Under no circumstances are abusive and inappropriate personal comments to be made to any game official in person or via written communications. Written communications are to be addressed to the Vice President of Officiating and should be to the point by addressing a specific issue with a request for review and/or to file a complaint.

6. Before lodging a complaint, owners should review film and evaluate carefully. It is recommended that all complaints be held for a minimum of 24-hours before forwarding and/or filing same.

7. Complaints are to be directed to the Vice President of Officiating with accompanying video for an accurate review and for the purpose of evaluation of game officials, interpretation of call(s), and educational use for the improvement of game officials.

8. The Vice President of Officiating will respond with an opinion, evaluation and interpretation of the complaint upon review of video and discussion with the Crew Chief of Game Officials and/or other game officials assigned to the game in which the complaint filed refers to.

9. Complaints against individual game officials must include the uniform number of the game official, as

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

well as their name. General and specific complaints must be submitted with video back-up. The Vice President of Officiating will evaluate the individual performance of any game official listed based on the complaint, including any additional observation of performance, and will then act accordingly.

10. All results of any complaint reviewed by the Vice President of Officiating will be submitted to the complainant (owner and/or head coach), the Owner of the accused organization and the FFA Sr. Vice President.

NOTE: No game has ever been played without calls missed, incorrectly called, or a rule of play misinterpreted. Our objective as a league is to make game officials aware of such incidents so as to improve their performance, not to berate and/or alienate them from the FFA.

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### SECTION 20      PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Rule 20.1    Definition(s)

1. "Active Roster" of a minor league football team shall be defined as that roster of which all players listed are immediately eligible and/or available for participation and/or competition.
2. "Inactive Roster" of a minor league football team shall be defined as that roster of which all players listed are not immediately eligible and/or available for participation and/or competition.
3. "Training Camp Roster" of a minor league football team shall be defined as that roster of which all players listed are not immediately eligible and/or available for participation and/or competition, but rather in a status of "player prospect".
4. "Under Contract" shall be defined as any player that has signed a standard league issued Amateur Athlete Agreement that is currently valid by FFA Rule.
5. A "Written Release" and/or "Player Release" shall be defined as any written notice indicating that a player has been released from his signed FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement.
6. "Tampering" shall be defined as the act of engaging in improper and/or unauthorized negotiations with an individual under contract (i.e., player, athlete, etc.) and/or has an established and recognized affiliation with an organization (i.e., coaches, team management, etc.). An example of tampering might include, any verbal or written communication that clearly indicates an offer to a player to sign and/or join an opposing FFA team. This can be done during a face-to face meeting, a message and/or note sent by any form of mail, also including phone texts and private or public messages on any social media site or blog.
7. "Established and recognized" shall be defined as a being commonly and/or widely known within the FFA, either through witness of participation in a team event or game, or by photos or videos, or a name publicly posted on a team website or social media website.

#### Rule 20.2    Amateur Athlete Agreement; Liability Waiver Form

1. No person may participate in any organized member team activities (i.e., workouts, weightlifting, practices, exhibition games, scrimmages, league sanctioned games, etc.) without a current, signed and properly executed, unaltered FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement and/or FFA Liability Waiver. This means that ALL persons wanting to practice or play on an FFA team must be under contract and/or have signed a waiver BEFORE taking the field or participating in any team activity.
2. All FFA member teams are required to use the standard league issued Amateur Athlete Agreement and Liability Waiver Form (or something similar and approved by the FFA Executive Offices) when signing players. Any other player contract or waiver is invalid.

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3. An FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement can be signed on or after August 1st of every year and expires on June 1st of the following year. Amateur Athlete Agreements are only valid between August 1st until June 1st of the following year. This time period is considered a single football season.

4. For the purpose of a tryout, a person wanting to join a team must have signed a waiver to participate in the tryout. A tryout cannot be longer than a single day. To participate, practice or play with the team on a subsequent date the player must also have a signed FFA Liability Waiver, but could also sign an FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement with the team if the player has made a determination that he wants to be a part of that team.

5. Once a player signs and execute a valid and approved FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement it then becomes a legal and binding contract to that team on the date of its signing. The FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement is not mandatory until the FFA first regular season competition.

5. Any player requesting a release from said team after signing a legal and binding FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement is at the sole discretion of the Owner of said team. Note: If a player requests a release once the season begins and he is on a team's "Inactive Roster", the team must release him provided the player is in a satisfactory standing with the team (i.e. financial and/or equipment).

6. A penalty of up to \$250.00, per occurrence, can be assessed for every player allowed to participate, practice or play without having a valid, signed Amateur Athlete Agreement and/or FFA Liability Waiver on file.

### **Rule 20.3 Player Releases; Player Signings and Movement**

1. Any written release must be in writing by the owner of the FFA team the player is being released from and submitted in writing via email to the FFA Sr. Vice President. Verbal releases or those sent via phone text are invalid.

2. Once a player is under contract with an FFA Team, he is not permitted to sign or play with another FFA team without a written release.

3. A player can become a free agent upon receiving a release from his former FFA team and is permitted to sign an FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement with another FFA team provided the following applies:

a. The release occurred before the 8<sup>th</sup> regular season game.

b. A release may occur after the 8<sup>th</sup> regular season game but released player will not be permitted to sign another FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement until the next FFA Season. Special permission of the FFA Sr. Vice President may be given to situations of family hardship, financial hardship, and medical hardship. But will only be on a case by case basis.

c. All player(s) involved have satisfactorily met their financial obligations to their former team and have returned all team equipment.

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d. In the special case of a team folding, player releases must be approved by the FFA Sr. Vice President and be in the best interest of the FFA. Releases of players from a folded team will be done on a case by case basis.

e. In the special case of a team folding, the subsequent player signings by other teams must be approved by the FFA Sr. Vice President and must be in the best interest of the FFA. I.E.: Folding a team and sending all players to one team to get a competitive advantage is not allowed and will not be approved by the FFA Sr. Vice President.

### **Rule 20.4 Player Post-Season Eligibility**

1. To establish and maintain post-season eligibility, all players listed on a team's "playoff roster" is eligible for post season play.
2. To be eligible to be listed on the "playoff roster", a player must be listed on a team current roster from at least before the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) game up until the eight (8<sup>th</sup>) game of the season.
3. A player must be listed on a team's official roster that is on the league's website. The roster will include the players name, jersey number, position, and photo.
4. A player must be in good standing with the FFA. He may not be in any arears in fines and may not have been suspended two (2) or more times during the season.

### **Rule 20.5 Tampering; Unauthorized Recruiting of a Player, Coach Team Executive**

1. Any team owner, co-owner, executive or management staff member, or coaching staff member that has a recruiting discussion with a player under contract with a member FFA team is inappropriate, unauthorized and considered by the league to be "tampering".
2. Any team owner, co-owner, executive or management staff member, or coaching staff member that has a recruiting discussion with a member FFA team's ownership, executive or management staff member is inappropriate, unauthorized and considered by the league to be "tampering".
3. It is not considered tampering if a team owner, co-owner, executive or management staff member, or coaching staff member has a recruitment discussion with a player who has only signed an FFA Waiver Liability.
4. Flagrant mass recruiting of other teams' players during the Training Camp time period is not allowed. This includes mass emails, social media posts directed at specific players or teams for the purpose of recruitment.
5. Any new team coming into the FFA as a first year member, and who is operating in an area of an



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existing veteran FFA team, is not allowed to contact any of that veteran team(s) existing players under FFA Waiver or Agreement by phone, email, text, or in person about the possibility of joining their team for the first year of FFA league membership. This will be considered tampering.

6. A penalty of up to \$250.00 for each Tampering violation may be assessed.

### **Rule 20.6 FFA Players on the Roster of a Non-FFA Team (Amateur or Professional)**

1. Players may play for other non-league teams before or after the FFA season.

2. Any player listed on the roster of an FFA team that is found to be simultaneously listed on the active roster of any other American football team that is currently “in-season”, amateur or professional, that coincides with the present season of the FFA, will be deemed as “ineligible” for the remainder of the current FFA season.

3. Players found to be on the active roster of a professional football team, or known to have signed a contract to play and/or perform as a player with any professional team, at any level of the sport of American football while at the same time listed on the current roster of an FFA member team, will automatically be ruled as ineligible. Players found to be in violation of this rule could face disciplinary action in the form of game suspension(s), fines, or possible lifetime FFA ban.

4. Players on the roster of an FFA team that participates in any organized practice, scrimmage, or exhibitions with professional football team(s) during the FFA season are “ineligible”.

5. FFA teams that knowingly have any players that have signed a contract to play professional football, or have played professional football, during the same time they were on said FFA team’s roster is obligated to notify the league immediately while simultaneously removing the player(s) from the roster posted on their team website. Once notification has been received by the league office, league officials will remove said player(s) them from the team roster on the league website.

6. Teams that fail to comply with Rule 20.6.5 in this section are to be assessed a \$100 fine per player for “non-disclosure”.

### **Rule 20.7 Fraudulent Representation of Amateur Athletic Agreement; Deceiving FFA Teams**

1. Any player who signs a standard league issued Amateur Athlete Agreement with one FFA team, then signs a separate league issued Amateur Athlete Agreement with another FFA team and fails to disclose the previous agreement with the latter team, that player will automatically be ruled as “ineligible” to participate in the current FFA regular season for any FFA team.

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2. No FFA team may knowingly sign a player to an FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement when the player has a currently active FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement with another FFA team. The penalty for doing so is a fine of \$250 and the person responsible will be placed on Administrative Probation. If said player participated in any league sanctioned games for the latter team, those games will be ruled as a forfeit victory to the opponent.

3. Misrepresentation of the FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement in any manner or fashion to a player by a member team owner, co-owner, management staff member, or coach, is considered by the league as a fraudulent act of misrepresentation and any player affected by such action shall immediately become a free agent. The team found in violation of this rule will be assessed a \$100 fine per every player involved.

### **Rule 20.8 Owners and/or Head Coaches as Players**

1. Head coaches may play for their team provided an individual with the title of associate head coach is appointed and listed on the Football Federation Alliance (FFA) communications sheet. The associate head coach becomes the person in-charge during the game.

2. Owners may play for their team when a legal partner or designee is identified as in-charge of the game site in case of administrative issues. An owner in uniform as a player may not act the role of an owner during the entirety of the game, including any and all, time outs and at halftime.

### **Rule 20.9 Players from Teams That Fold or Cease Operations; Determination of Eligibility**

1. The FFA Sr. Vice President will determine, on a case by case basis, how to address the eligibility of players that were on the roster of an FFA team that folds and/or ceases operations. The FFA Sr. Vice President will make a recommendation to the FFA President to determine the direction the league should take concerning this matter.

### **Rule 20.10 Free Agency and Restricted Free Agent**

1. A player becomes a free agent under the following circumstances:

a. Once the season ends for any FFA team or upon completion of the Alliance Bowl, whichever comes first, every player on all team rosters become a free agent.

b. From the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, all players are free agents, and will remain so until signing an FFA Amateur Athlete Agreement.

c. The moment a written release has been received and approved by the FFA President or Sr. Vice President; a player becomes a free agent.

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d. The moment an FFA team has officially notified the FFA President of their decision to fold or cease operations, all players on said team's roster become "restricted free agents" who can only sign with another FFA team after approval from the FFA President or Sr. Vice President.

e. A player becomes a restricted free agent when he is placed on a team's inactive roster and may gain full free agent status when the team release him or if he requests a release while on the inactive roster.

### **Rule 20.11 General Information**

1. For purposes of validation, the league reserves the right to request proof of residency at any time concerning any league issued Amateur Athlete Agreement, or request for player release.

2. Any player on the roster of an FFA team discovered to not be under contract while actively participating in league sanctioned games shall be immediately declared as ineligible, retroactive to the beginning of the regular season.

a. Games in which the unsigned player participated in will be ruled as forfeit victories to the opponent.

b. The FFA team in violation will be fined \$250.

c. Said player then becomes a free agent and can sign with any team upon approval of the FFA Sr. Vice President, including the FFA team he had been playing for that season.

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### SECTION 21 AMATEUR STATUS

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Rule 21.1 Definition(s)

1. An “amateur athlete” is defined as a person that is not paid financially and does not receive compensation in any way for their athletic performance or attendance at any game, event, etc. by any athletic organization and/or team, professional or otherwise during the FFA Season.
2. A “member team” is defined as a team that is recognized as being a paid member organization of the FFA in good standing as it relates to compliance with all rules, policies and regulations of the FFA during the current competitive season campaign.
3. “Financial compensation” shall be defined as any personal or electronic transaction involving cash, check or other financial instrument received by a player of a member team from one or more parties that is directly or indirectly associated or affiliated with a member team.
4. “In-kind compensation” shall be defined as any compensation other than that which is financial in nature and the like (i.e., gift cards, tangible items/ of significant value (\$50 or more), discount coupons<sup>1</sup>, food<sup>1</sup>, travel<sup>1</sup>, lodging<sup>1</sup>, team apparel<sup>1</sup>, etc.).

#### Rule 21.2 General Information

1. No player on the active, or inactive, roster of a member team is to be financially compensated in any manner or fashion for their on-field performance, or attendance and/or participation as a representative of a member team at any off-field event, function, meeting, etc.
2. This policy prohibits the following.
  - a. Prohibiting a player on the active, or inactive roster of a member team from receiving any in-kind compensation for on-field performance, or off-field attendance and/or participation as a representative of a member team at any off-field event, function, meeting, etc.
  - b. The receiving of services, favors, property and/or gifts that would not routinely be offered to other and/or all players on the active, or inactive, roster of a member team in any manner or fashion in return for the on-field performance or attendance and/or participation at an off-field team event, function, meeting, etc. by a player on the active, or inactive, roster of a member team.
3. Any player (roster or non-roster), coach, organization representative, associate, or volunteer, that is directly or indirectly affiliated with a member team of the FFA that solicits for discussion, or brings about cause for discussion, or communicates in any manner (verbally, electronic, or otherwise) concerning the prohibitive act of player compensation of any kind as described herein shall be prohibited in and of itself.

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### **Rule 21.3 Penalties for Violation of Amateur Status Policy; Appeals Prohibited**

1. Disciplinary action taken by FFA officials against any person(s) found to be in violation of financially compensating a player will be final and may include fines and or suspension. The appropriate discipline is at the sole discretion of the FFA President.
2. In-kind compensation is allowable provided that said item(s) and/or service(s) were made equally available to any and all players on the active roster of a member team “across-the board” and is directly related to a team sanctioned event and/or game.

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### SECTION 22 CODE OF CONDUCT

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Rule 22.1 Definition(s)

1. "Detrimental Conduct" shall be defined as that of which is harmful and/or damaging to the FFA and/or its member teams.
2. A plea of "nolo contendere" is where a defendant accepts the punishment for a crime, he/she has been charged with and/or accused of without admitting or denying his/her guilt. Basically, the defendant doesn't contest or challenge the criminal charge(s) against him/her and does not admit to committing the crime(s) or even deny it but allows the court sentence them for committing the crime.
3. For the purposes of this section, "disrespectful or unbecoming" behavior shall be defined as that of which is generally unacceptable and unprofessional in nature and includes, but is not limited to, use of offensive and/or foul language and committing a vulgar and/or inappropriate gesture.

#### Rule 22.2 General Information

1. All persons associated with the FFA are required to avoid "conduct detrimental to the integrity of and/or public confidence in the Football Federation Alliance." This requirement applies to owners, team management, players, coaches, other team staff members, game officials and all others privileged to be associated with the FFA.
2. Rules that promote lawful, ethical, and responsible conduct serve the best interests of the FFA, its players and fans. "Illegal", "irresponsible" or "inappropriate" conduct does more than simply tarnish the offender. It puts innocent people at risk, sullies the reputation of others involved in the game, and undermines public respect and support for the FFA.
3. While criminal activity is clearly outside the scope of permissible conduct, and persons who engage in criminal activity will be subject to discipline, the standard of conduct for persons involved with the FFA is considerably higher. It is not enough simply to avoid being found guilty of a crime. Instead, as a member of the FFA or a member team, you are held to a higher standard and expected to conduct yourself in a way that is responsible, promotes the values upon which the league is based, and is lawful.
4. Persons who fail to live up to this standard of conduct are guilty of detrimental conduct and subject to discipline, even when it does not result in a conviction of a crime. Discipline may be imposed in any of the following circumstances:
  - a. "Criminal" offenses, "irresponsible", or "inappropriate" conduct including, but not limited to, those involving:
    - i. The use or threat of violence; domestic violence and other forms of partner abuse; theft and other property crimes; sex offenses; obstruction or resisting arrest; disorderly conduct; fraud;

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racketeering; and money laundering:

- ii. Criminal offenses relating to illegal or prohibited substances, or substances of abuse;
- iii. Violent or threatening behavior among members, whether in or outside the workplace;
- iv. Possession of a gun or other weapon in any workplace setting, including but not limited to stadiums, team facilities, training camp, locker rooms, team planes, buses, parking lots, etc., or unlawful possession of a weapon outside of the workplace;
- v. Conduct that imposes inherent danger to the safety and wellbeing of another person; and
- vi. Conduct that undermines or puts at risk the integrity and reputation of the FFA, FFA member teams, FFA board members, FFA administrators, FFA game officials, FFA coaches, FFA owners, or FFA players.
- vii. Behavior deemed as disrespectful or unbecoming to any league official, league staff member, member team owner or co-owner, management personnel of a member team, member team volunteer or game day staff personnel, at any time is prohibited.
- viii. Behavior deemed as disrespectful or unbecoming to any person associated with a league sponsor, partner, vendor, or service provider, at any time is prohibited.

### **Rule 22.3 Rule/Policy Application; Covered Persons**

1. This policy applies to all players under contract; all coaches; all game officials; all full-time members of the FFA, FFA member teams, and all FFA-related entities; all new players once they are signed or participate in a team's off-season training programs; unsigned veterans who were under contract in the prior League Year, and other prospective members once they commence negotiations with a club concerning membership.
2. Clubs are strongly encouraged to communicate this policy to independent contractors and consultants and to make clear that violations of this policy will be grounds for terminating a business relationship.

### **Rule 22.4 Reporting of Incidents**

1. The League must be advised promptly of any incident that may be a violation of this policy, and particularly when any conduct results in an arrest or other criminal charge.
2. Players and team members must report any such incident to the team, which must then report it to FFA Vice President of League Affairs. Failure to report an incident will constitute detrimental conduct and will be taken into consideration in making disciplinary determination under this policy.

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3. Teams are also required to report incidents that come to their attention.

### **Rule 22.5 Disciplinary Action; Fines, etc.**

1. Upon learning of conduct that may give rise to discipline, the Vice President of League Affairs will direct an investigation (refer to Section-38) which may include interviews and information gathering from medical, law enforcement, and other relevant professionals.

2. The League will promptly advise the FFA member team of any investigation of a player, as well as of the results of the investigation.

3. As appropriate, the member will also have the opportunity to be represented by counsel and/or an FFA member team official, to address the conduct at issue.

4. Upon conclusion of the investigation, the FFA President will have full authority to impose discipline as warranted.

5. Discipline may take the form of fines (\$25-\$500), suspension (1 or more games), or banishment from the league and may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement. The specifics of the disciplinary response will be based on the nature of the incident, the actual or threatened risk to the participant and others, any prior or additional misconduct (whether or not criminal charges were filed), and other relevant factors.

6. In the event of a criminal case, it is unlikely that any disciplinary action will be taken until there has been a final disposition of the proceeding, either by the investigating agency or court of law, or until the investigation is complete by the FFA.

7. With respect to repeat offenders, the President may impose discipline on an expedited basis. The timing and nature of the discipline will be determined by the FFA President based on several factors including but not limited to:

a. the severity of the initial charge and later charge;

b. the facts underlying the later charge;

c. the length of time between the initial offense and later charge;

d. and the player or employee's compliance with counseling and other programs.

8. Following a full investigation and/or resolution of the proceedings by the Vice President of League Affairs, the FFA President will review the matter and make any appropriate adjustments which will include any adjudication of guilt or admission to a criminal violation; a plea to a lesser included offense; a plea of "nolo contendere" or no contest; or the acceptance of a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision, or similar arrangements.



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### **Rule 22.6 Rights to Appeal**

1. Following the imposition of discipline, the affected person will have the right to appeal the decision. Persons filing a "Notice of Appeal" (defined in Rule 39.1.4) shall be entitled to a prompt review conducted by the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals.

### **Rule 22.7 Reinstatement**

1. Any person suspended indefinitely or for at least one year may seek reinstatement beginning one month prior to the one-year anniversary of the suspension.

2. As part of his consideration of the application for reinstatement from a player, the FFA Executive Administration will seek the views of the member team, Player Advisory Council, Board of Governors and may consult medical, law enforcement, and other relevant professionals.

### **Rule 22.8 Probationary Period**

1. Persons found to have violated this policy may be placed on a period of probation as determined by the FFA President. During such period, restrictions on certain activities, limitations on participation in member team activities, or other conditions may be imposed.

### **Rule 22.9 Repeat Offenders**

1. Persons who have had previous violations of law or of this policy may be considered repeat offenders. When appropriate, conduct occurring prior to the person's association with the League will be considered.

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### SECTION 23 EJECTIONS

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### Rule 23.1 Definition(s)

1. The term “position” shall be defined as anyone with the distinct role and/or appointment to a member team as coach, owner, team executive and/or manager, game day staff member, etc. This includes, but is not limited to, persons who attain the role of a “fan in attendance”.
2. A “team official” shall be defined as any member team owner or co-owner, management personnel or coaching staff of a member team.
3. A “threat of violence” shall be defined as any verbal statement made by a person of their intention to commit an act of physical violence upon another person or persons.
4. “Physical violence” shall be defined as any person engaging in the act of striking another person or persons with any body part, and/or the use of a helmet, weapon or firearm, upon another person or persons, all of which results in minor or serious physical injury.

#### Rule 23.2 Notification of Ejection

1. Once a person has been notified of their ejection for any reason from a league sanctioned game by a referee and/or game official and/or team official, said ejected person must leave the playing venue immediately.
2. Team owners and the Vice President of Officials must inform the FFA President of any and all ejections. The name of the ejected person, their position and/or role during said game, and the team of which they are associated with are to be used for confirmation. In the case of a player ejection, their jersey number is to be included in the notification of ejection report.

#### Rule 23.3 Player Ejection

1. Any ejection during a game is an automatic one (1) game suspension for the next league sanctioned game.
2. Any player ejected for a threat of violence will receive a minimum two (2) game suspension
3. Any player ejected for fighting will receive a minimum two (2) game suspension on top of the automatic suspension. Three (3) total games.
4. Any player leaving the bench and/or sidelines due to a fight and/or altercation on the field of play will receive a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. Note: The player does not have to be ejected to receive this discipline.

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5. Any player who engages and/or participates in a fight or altercation on the field upon leaving the bench and/or sidelines will receive a minimum two (2) game suspension. Note: The player does not have to be ejected to receive this discipline.

6. The FFA reserves the right to refer to any and all video tape of the game in-question to identify any and all players involved.

### **Rule 23.4 Non-Player Ejection**

1. Any non-player that is a coach and has been ejected for any reason will be suspended from the sidelines for the next league sanctioned game.

2. Any non-player that is a member team owner or co-owner, or management personnel of a member team, and has been ejected for any reason will be suspended from the sidelines and/or playing venue for the next league sanctioned game.

3. Any non-player ejected for a threat of violence will receive a minimum 2-game suspension.

4. Any non-player leaving the sidelines due to an altercation on the field of play will receive a minimum of a two (2) game suspension. This does not apply to a non-player who is found to be making a genuine attempt at dispersing any and all participants of a fight and/or altercation on the field of play.

5. The FFA reserves the right to refer to any and all video tape of the game in-question to identify any and all non-players involved.

6. Any non-player ejected for an act of physical contact and/or violence upon any game official, member team owner or co-owner, management personnel of a member team, or coach, will receive a lifetime ban.

### **Rule 23.5 Unfulfilled Suspensions to Carry Over to the Following Season**

1. Any and all suspensions not fulfilled during the current FFA regular season and/or post-season shall carry over to the following FFA regular season.

### **Rule 23.6 Multiple or Habitual Offenders**

1. Any player or non-player that receives three (3) ejections in the same FFA season shall be suspended from play and/or participation in any league sanctioned games and/or team activities for the remainder of the season.

2. Any player or non-player that receives two (2) ejections in the same FFA season, shall be suspended from any post season play (playoffs, all-star game, and championship game).

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3. In the case where the final ejection results in suspension for the remainder of the season and it occurs during a season ending game, the FFA President will decide the appropriate number of days such suspension will last into the following FFA regular season.

4. If a player is banned for a year or more and the player is reinstated and then after being reinstated gets banned again for a year or more, that player is now banned for life with no ability to appeal. However, the FFA President has the right to review the situation of the player whenever he so chooses and determine if there is a cause to reinstate him and the act accordingly.

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### **SECTION 24 FINES AND DISCIPLINE**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 24.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Mandated for cause" shall be defined as administrative action taken by league officials in the manner of a formal order based on a justifiable reason, and/or sufficient evidence of a violation of league rules, administrative policy, or directive.
2. "Decorum" shall be defined as dignified and proper behavior, personal conduct, speech, dress, etc.
3. "Administrative probation" shall be defined as distinct period of time of which further violations of league rules, policies, and directives must not occur or a greater form of discipline and/or fine assessment shall be rendered by the league.

#### **Rule 24.2 General Information**

1. Unless otherwise listed in other sections, teams in violation of league rules, policies, or directives, will be fined as follows.

#### **Rule 24.3 Venue Security Violation; No or Improper Staffing of Public Safety Personnel**

1. If there are no public safety and/or law enforcement personnel on-site at a playing venue on active duty and in uniform, or there are less than two (2) public safety and/or law enforcement personnel on-site at a playing venue on active duty and in uniform, a fine of \$250 will be assessed to the home team. Refer to Rule 33.6 in Section-33 for proper protocol in these matters when there are no game security personnel on-site at a playing venue.

#### **Rule 24.4 Use of Ineligible Player During a League Sanctioned Game**

1. Any and all league sanctioned games played using an ineligible player will be declared a forfeit victory for the opponent and a league fine of \$250.00 per game shall be assessed to the member team.

#### **Rule 24.5 Violation of Minimum League Standards**

1. All other violations of minimum standards as defined in Section-1 of the FFA Rulebook shall result in a fine of \$50 per occurrence. An additional fine of \$25 per week shall be assessed for every week an assessed fine remains unpaid.

#### **Rule 24.6 Other Fines and Discipline Guidelines**

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1. Upon the discretion of league Executive Offices and/or the Administrative Offices, a league sanctioned forfeit can be assessed.
2. Any person or member team associated with the FFA is subject to being placed on administrative probation when warranted due to the sensitive nature of a league rules violation, or repetitive violations of league rules, etc.
3. Any person associated with the FFA that fails to use proper decorum at any league sanctioned game, meeting, or event, will be assessed a \$50 fine and/or placement on administrative probation for a first offense. A second offense shall be a fine of \$100, a game suspension and placement on administrative probation. A third offense shall be suspension for the remainder of the FFA season and/or grounds for removal of a member team from the FFA.
4. Any member team that fails to have a representative attend and/or participate in any league sanctioned and/or mandated meeting, event, conference call, etc., shall be assessed a fine of \$250. This includes, but is not limited to, league sponsored training and education seminars and courses, Championship Weekend, etc.
5. Fines for any violation of league rules shall be doubled upon the official direction and/or notification by the league President beginning from an announced date during the regular season schedule thru the post-season schedule of games, including the league title game, the "Federation Bowl".

### **Rule 24.7 Payment of Fines Due**

1. Unless otherwise directed by the FFA President or an official league order from the FFA Executive Offices, all fines assessed to players and non-players are due immediately upon notification of such, and/or no later than 8:00 PM the Friday before the next scheduled league sanction game.

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### **SECTION 25        FORFEITS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 25.1    Definition(s)**

1. An “incomplete game” shall be defined as a game that has not completed three (3) whole quarters of play and/or 45 total “game minutes” from kick-off to the end of the third quarter.
2. “No show” shall be defined as failing to attend and/or be present for competition in a scheduled league sanctioned game.
3. “Proper and adequate notice” shall be defined as making direct contact by phone with the team owner of an opposing team, the Vice President of Officials, and the FFA President within six (6) hours of a scheduled kick-off of a league sanctioned game.
4. A “league mandated forfeit” is defined as one in which league officials have found sufficient evidence to assess disciplinary action against a team in this manner for specific violation(s) of league rules, policies, and directives.

#### **Rule 25.2    General Information**

1. It is the responsibility of each owner to commit to maintaining an adequate roster of players to participate and play in every scheduled league sanctioned game during the regular season, and post-season.
2. Owners are held legally responsible for all forfeit fines as individuals and agree by signing FFA membership agreement. Legal fees associated with filing charges, legal counsel, court costs, monthly interest fees, and travel required by any league official to serve as a witness in any legal proceedings, shall be the responsibility of the owner committing the forfeit.
3. Any team that forfeits multiple games for any reason other than what has been defined in Rule 26.3.3 and 26.4.1 in this section, can be expelled from the league and shall forfeit any and all pre-paid finances. The team will be evaluated by the FFA Executive Administration and FFA Board of Directors to determine status. The team responsible for a second forfeit can be subject to, but not limited to, fines, expulsion and legal procedures.

#### **Rule 25.3    Forfeits in General**

1. A team that forfeits a regular season game for any reason other than what is defined in Rule 25.3.3 and 25.4., shall be fined \$250 and placed on administrative probation. A second offense of this nature shall result in the team being prohibited from participating in the FFA post-season playoffs. A third offense of this nature shall result in the team being expelled from the league.
2. A league mandated forfeit shall result in a team being assessed a fine of \$250 and placed on

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administrative probation. A second offense of this nature shall result in the team being placed under immediate administrative review by the league for advanced disciplinary action and/or possible expulsion from the FFA.

3. Any team that has means and player resources to compete in a scheduled league sanctioned game but willfully refuses to do so for any reason deemed to be unacceptable by the FFA President, shall be fined \$500 and prohibited from competing in the FFA post-season playoffs.

### **Rule 25.4 Forfeits Due to a “No Show” Without Proper and Adequate Notice**

1. A team that forfeits a regular season game due to a “no show” without proper and adequate notice shall be fined \$250, placed on administrative probation, and will not be permitted to participate in the FFA post-season playoffs. A second offense of this nature will result in being expelled from the league.

### **Rule 25.5 Forfeit Game Score**

1. All games ruled as a forfeit will be scored as a 6-0 victory to the team awarded the win.

### **Rule 25.6 Post Forfeit Remedies for Teams Suffering Financial Loss**

1. Member teams experiencing financial loss due to a game forfeiture by an opposing member team are encouraged to recoup such by filing for damages (\$5,000 or less) in the small claims division of the respective Circuit Court in the county of which they are domiciled in. The FFA President, or other league official upon request, shall attend all such cases in support



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### **SECTION 26 POST-SEASON**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 26.1 Definition(s)**

1. "VIP" is the acronym for Very Important Person.
2. A "neutral site" and/or "neutral playing venue" is defined as a field or stadium in which no current member team utilizes as their home playing venue.
3. FFA Championship Weekend is the signature event of the Football Federation Alliance and it includes league sanctioned events such as the Annual "Meet-N-Greet" gathering on opening night, End-of-the-Season League Meeting, Federation Bowl Championship Game, FFA All-Star Game, and FFA Awards Presentation Ceremony.

#### **Rule 26.2 General Information**

1. Gate admission for post-season playoff games is determined by the home team. The league does not mandate that "comp" tickets be made available during the post-season playoff schedule.
2. Excluding the Federation Bowl championship, financial proceeds of post-season games are the sole property of the host team.

#### **Rule 26.3 Post-Season Qualification Process**

1. The first phase of the post-season qualification process begins with the selection of teams with the best win-loss records in each respective conference, known as the "eligibility phase".
2. The second and final phase, known as the "confirmation phase", includes a complete administrative review of the all teams selected in phase one to ensure each team is in full compliance of all league rules concerning their roster and that all of their financial obligations to the league have been met.

#### **Rule 26.4 Tiebreaker Within A Division**

1. If, at the end of the regular season, two or more teams in the same division finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, the following steps will be taken until a division champion is determined:
  - a. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the clubs).
  - b. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the division.
  - c. Best won-lost-tied percentage in common games.

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- d. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the conference.
- e. Best lowest net points allowed in all regular season games.
- f. Coin toss.

### **Rule 26.5 Tiebreaker Within A Conference**

1. If, at the end of the regular season, two or more teams in the same conference finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, the following steps will be taken until a top seed is determined among the teams involved:

- a. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the clubs).
- b. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the Conference.
- c. Best won-lost-tied percentage in common games.
- d. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the conference.
- e. Best lowest net points allowed in all regular season games.
- f. Coin toss.

### **Rule 26.6 Post-Season Playoff Seeding**

1. Six (6) teams in each respective conference with the best record records shall be eligible for the post season. The six (6) post-season participants from each conference are seeded as follows:

- a. Seed #1: The division champion with the best overall record.
- b. Seed #2: The division champion with the second-best overall record.
- c. Seed #3: The Wild Card club with the best overall record
- d. Seed #4: The Wild Card club with the second-best overall record
- e. Seed #5: The Wild Card club with the third-best overall record.
- f. Seed #6: The Wild Card club with the fourth-best overall record.

### **Rule 26.7 Post-Season Playoff Format**

1. The FFA post-season schedule format will be as follows:

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

a. Week-1, First round: "Wildcard" playoffs. b. Week-2, Second round: Divisional playoffs. c. Week-3, Third round: Conference Championships. d. Week-4, Bye week e. Week-5, FFA Championship: "Federation Bowl".

### **Rule 26.8 Federation Bowl**

1. Each team will be provided two (2) "VIP Passes" as part of the league compensation package. These VIP Passes will be for the Federation Bowl and FFA All-Star Game.
2. Teams competing in the Federation Bowl will be provided sideline passes for all staff members and critical personnel for the Federation Bowl.
3. All players in the FFA, who finished the year in good standing, shall receive free entry in the Federation Bowl and the FFA All-Star game.
3. The FFA Federation Bowl championship game is supported by the league and the game site and playing venue is chosen each off-season by the FFA Executive Offices and approved by the Board of Governors.
4. Generally, a neutral site and playing venue is the preferred choice, when available. All proceeds are the property of the Football Federation Alliance (FFA) when played at a neutral site and playing venue
5. In the event that a neutral site and playing venue is not available, the FFA President may offer the team with the highest seed the opportunity to host the game. When played at a selected member team site, all expenses are the responsibility of, and all proceeds are the property of, the host team.
6. The Federation Bowl home team will rotate back and forth between the 2 conferences on a year to year basis. I.E.: If this year the north conference is the home team, then next year the south conference will be the home team.
7. The Federation Bowl home team may be selected by a coin toss by the FFA President and/or his designee among the FFA Executive Offices and witnessed by a member of the league staff if approved necessary.
8. Every member team owner and/or their team representative is required to attend the end of the season league meeting during the FFA Championship Weekend.

### **Rule 26.9 Pre-Season and Post-Season Bowl Competition/Tournament Events**

1. It is mandatory that the Federation Bowl Champion participate in a pre-season and/or post season bowl game when available and if participation in such does not place an unreasonable financial hardship on the team.

### **Rule 26.10 Post-Season Seeding and Format Subject to Change**

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1. Whereas there may be times that the post-season playoff seeding as defined in Rule 26.6 and the post-season format as defined in Rule 26.7 are not applicable for one reason or another, the Office of the FFA President reserves the right to develop and implement a suitable post-season playoff seeding and format system that is applicable to the number of post-season playoff qualified teams.

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### **SECTION 27 SELECTION OF ALL-STARS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 27.1 Definition(s)**

1. None

#### **Rule 27.2 All-Star Selection Process**

1. The total number of players selected as All-Stars to represent each respective conference will be determined based on the total number of member teams in each respective conference for the current season, with a minimum 36 to be chosen per respective conference during any one season.
2. The total number of All-Stars per respective conference team will be based on an equal number of representatives among the total number of member teams in the current season.
3. The All-Star players for each respective conference are to be selected by their member team owners and/or coaches.
4. When selecting All-Stars, each member team owner and/or coach will select at least one (1) offensive lineman, and one (1) defensive lineman, among their final list of All-Stars submitted to the league office.
5. The league will choose a kicker and a punter as All-Stars to represent each respective conference.

#### **Rule 27.3 Submitting All-Star Selections to the League**

1. When submitting names of All-Star players to the league office, the list must be sent via email and include the following:
  - a. Full name (please double-check spelling before submitting names)
  - b. Position
  - c. Jersey number
  - d. Jersey size

#### **Rule 27.4 All-Star Conference Coaching Staff Requirement**

1. The coaching staff from each conference championship runner-up team is required to coach their respective conference All-Star team during FFA Championship Weekend. No exceptions.

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### **SECTION 28 GAME FIELD CONTRACTS; SET-UP STANDARDS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 28.1 Definition(s)**

1. For the purposes of this section, “playing venue” shall be defined as a game field and/or stadium utilized by a member team for their home games.

#### **Rule 28.2 Playing Venue Contract and/or Agreement**

1. Each team must provide a copy of their executed playing venue contract and/or agreement to the league office upon the date set forth annually. The contract should ensure the use of the facility and the availability of the services listed in the Field Markings and Set-Up.

#### **Rule 28.3 Field Markings, Set-Up, and Equipment**

1. The following shall be the standard for all game fields at every playing venue utilized by an FFA member team:

- a. Lines marked at intervals of 5-yards and a width of no less than 3 inches from goal line to goal line.
- b. Hash marks on every 5-yard line in-line with goal post uprights is preferred but optional.
- c. Extra point line located 15-yards from the goal line.
- d. Coaches/players box lined on each sideline.
- e. Four (4) corner pylons in each end zone.
- f. 10-yard sideline markers on both sides of the field.
- g. Protective goal post pads, a minimum of 4 inches thick, on ground to cross bar posts.
- h. Regulation down and distance indicator and chains.
- i. Two (2) Sideline benches 10' long located on each sideline of the field.
- j. Field lights (For teams playing night games lights must be inspected by FFA President or Vice President of League Affairs).
- k. Scoreboard (to be visible by both teams).
- l. Goal Posts (High School, College or Professional design and height).

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- m. Field/Fan Separation (permanent restraining fence or track or FFA approved substitute).
- n. Grandstands, bleachers, or seats for fans on at least one side of the field.
- o. Press Box (must have P.A. system) If a press box is not available, a score table at the top of the bleachers in-line with the 50-yard line is acceptable with a portable electrical P.A. system.
- p. U.S. Flag posted within sight of both teams and fans in attendance.

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### **SECTION 29 LOCKER ROOMS AND SHOWER FACILITIES**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 29.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Travel time" shall be defined as the total transportation time by motor vehicle from the home location of one-member team to the home location of another member team.
2. "Home location" of a member team is defined as the city and/or town in which the home playing venue is located.

#### **Rule 29.2 General Information**

1. It is mandatory that the host inspects, with the visiting member team, the facilities chosen to be utilized by the visiting team to ensure security of belongings upon leaving rooms and areas designated for dressing and showers.
2. The home team will ensure the timely opening of the dressing and/or locker room for the visiting team both at arrival and at half time.
3. Both teams should check to make sure no items owned by the host or field owner/operator are exposed to theft.
4. It is suggested that each owner mutually sign a document (created by hosting team) noting the condition of room and notations of pre-existing problems.
5. Alleged damages and/or thefts are handled among fellow member team owners.

#### **Rule.29.3 Locker Rooms and/or Dressing Room Facilities**

1. The host team is required to have a locker room and/or dressing room available for an opposing team and a changing room for game officials. In the event there is no such "permanently" constructed type locker room and/or dressing room facility, an alternate structure is acceptable provided it meets the following:
  - a. Must be an enclosed structure with a minimum size of 400 square feet that allows for a maximum of 40 persons at any one time. <sup>1</sup> Acceptable type structures include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Tent (20' x 20')
    - ii. Trailer (10' x 40'; office/construction type unit)
    - iii. FFA approved alternate



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### **Rule 29.4 Shower Facilities**

1. On-site shower facilities, although not required, are strongly recommended for use by all visiting member teams during the regular season and post-season that have endured a travel time

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### **SECTION 30 PRESS BOX**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 30.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Essential" shall be defined as required and/or mandatory.

#### **Rule 30.2 General Information**

1. The press box should include electronic equipment and the game clock control box for the scoreboard, a public address system, a microphone, as well as that of the Crew Chief of game official's on-field microphone system.
2. Essential personnel in the press box are as follows:
  - a. P.A. announcer
  - b. Spotter
  - c. Game Clock Operator / Timekeeper<sup>1</sup>
  - d. Scoreboard Operator<sup>1</sup>
  - e. Videographer
3. Other than essential personnel and VIP guests, no unauthorized persons should be in the press box at any time during a league sanctioned game.
4. In the event that an actual press box is unavailable due to damage, or not constructed at the playing venue, a set-up that consists of a table located at the top row of a set of bleachers or atop a well-constructed platform of some type that is in direct line and/or closely near that of the 50-yard line with the use of a portable hand-held public-address system is acceptable.

#### **Rule 30.3 Protocol**

1. Other than essential personnel and VIP guests, no unauthorized persons should be in the press box at any time during a league sanctioned game.
2. There should be no cheering or loud noises to interfere with game spotters and the P.A. announcer.
3. Music is allowed, provided it is family friendly and/or acceptable with no profanity and does not promote, suggest, or solicit any act of violence against another person or group of people.

Permitted to be one and the same as defined in Rule 11.7.6(A), but not required to be.

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### **SECTION 31 NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 31.1 Definition(s)**

1. The word “recital” shall be defined as to speak aloud before an audience.
2. For the purposes of this section, “performance” shall be defined as any live rendition of a particular song.

#### **Rule 31.2 Protocol**

1. The Flag of the United States is to be posted and/or displayed within view of all players and fans and must be a minimum size of 3’ x 5’.
2. The Star-Spangled Banner and/or U.S. National Anthem is to be played and/or performed (sung) prior to the kickoff of every league sanctioned game.
3. During the playing of the U.S. National Anthem, players, coaches and all other sideline personnel are permitted to participate in a silent protest of either kneeling, standing without commonly saluting, or remaining in the locker room area (if one is provided). The protest must not include any offensive jester at any time during the anthem. All male organizational members and any FFA personnel members on the sideline must remove all headwear during that time.
4. All other team personnel, including but not limited to, coaching staff, game day staff, and other team volunteers are to follow the same protocol as above.

#### **Rule 31.3 Exception**

1. In the event that any musical rendition of the U.S. National Anthem is not available to be played or sung, a two-minute moment of silence, or the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance may be substituted.

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### **SECTION 32 CONCESSION STAND**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 32.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Property owner" is defined as the person and/or public or private entity that owns and operates a playing venue (field, stadium, etc.).

#### **Rule 32.2 General Information**

1. All local and state of Florida laws as it pertains to food storage and preparation for public service, consumption, and sales, as well as any specific rules laid-out by the property owner/operator, must be adhered to during the operation of any concession stand being utilized by a member team at their playing venue.

#### **Rule 32.3 Concession Stand Requirements**

1. A concession stand and/or similar place for the purchase of food and/or snack and beverage items must be available for all league sanctioned games.

2. When permitted by the venue owner/operator, acceptable concession type set-ups can be, but are not limited to:

a. Outdoor grills and/or stoves for cooking, with portable coolers for food and beverage products located near a service table set-up for fans to purchase and receive food and beverages items being served and sold.

b. A food catering truck.

3. The concession stand must be open to the public by no later than 20-minutes prior to a scheduled kick-off.

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### **SECTION 33        GAME SECURITY**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 33.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Game security" shall be defined as two (2) certified law enforcement officers with arrest powers within the jurisdiction of the site of the playing venue who must be in uniform.
2. "Disposition" shall be defined as the final settlement of a matter and/or incident.

#### **Rule 33.2    Pre-Game Requirements**

1. One (1) law enforcement officer is to be posted at the entry gate until midway through the first quarter. After such time, said law enforcement officer should be visible to fans and the opposing team on the visitor's sideline and/or grandstand area at least once per half, unless needed at another location on-site.
2. One (1) law enforcement officer is to be visible to both sides of the field until the game starts. At that time, he should take up post at or near the home team sideline and remain there unless needed at another location to handle a situation.

#### **Rule 33.3    Post-Game Requirements**

1. One (1) law enforcement officer shall remain on-field until the playing area is deemed secure, and then shall proceed to the venue parking lot until released by member team owner and/or an authorized team representative.
2. One (1) law enforcement officer shall escort all game officials to their vehicle and shall remain in the venue parking lot until released by member team owner and/or an authorized team representative.

#### **Rule 33.4    Owners and/or Coaches Post-Game Responsibility**

1. Member team owners and/or coaches are to remain present on-field in the playing area until the area is secure.

#### **Rule 33.5    Reporting of Incidents at Game**

1. In the best interest of all persons and/or organization(s) involved, any and all incidents that occur at a playing venue prior to, during, and after a league sanctioned game that required the direct involvement and/or interaction by on-site game security personnel, as well as any other law enforcement personnel summoned to assist with an incident, shall be reported in a timely fashion via email to the FFA Commissioner, and copied to the FFA President, FFA Sr. Vice President, and the FFA Vice President of League Affairs. Said email report must include the following:

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- a. Date of incident.
  - b. Time of incident (exact is preferred; approximate is acceptable).
  - c. Law enforcement agency case number (if applicable).
  - d. Name of law enforcement agency handling the incident and/or investigation.
  - e. Name of law enforcement officers assigned to game security.
  - f. Name of law enforcement officer that filed a written report (if applicable).
  - g. Name(s) of all person(s) involved (players, coaches, staff, fans, etc.).
  - h. Details of the incident (be brief and factual: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And/or How?).
  - i. Disposition of the incident, if known (i.e., any arrests, etc.).
2. The type of on-site incident(s) that are to be reported to the FFA League Office include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Theft of property.
  - b. Vandalism (Criminal Mischief) Vehicle burglary.
  - c. Any verbal and/or physical assault and/or physical battery.
  - d. Any motor vehicle parking lot accident.
  - e. Any accidental on-site injury or death.
  - f. Any natural death (i.e., heart attack victim, etc.)
  - g. Any fight and/or other physical altercation.
  - h. Any other criminal act or incident not listed herein.
3. In the case of parking lot motor vehicle accidents, only the following needs to be reported when submitting an email to the league office:
- a. Date of incident.
  - b. Time of incident (exact is preferred; approximate is acceptable).
  - c. Law enforcement agency case number (if applicable).

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d. Name of law enforcement agency handling the incident and/or investigation.

e. Name of law enforcement officers assigned to game security.

NOTE: Any information not immediately available can be obtained generally within 5-7 working days after the incident was reported. It is important that a case number from the investigating law enforcement is received prior to departing the playing venue.

### **Rule 33.6 No Game Security Personnel On-Site at Playing Venue**

1. In the event that there is no security present at any league sanctioned game, the game is automatically in violation of Rule 1.3, Section-1, and cannot start until approval is given by the Vice President of League Affairs. At this point, three options are available to the visiting team owner:

a. The visiting team may elect to take a forfeit victory due to violation of Section 33 (Game security).

b. Wait for an adequate and agreed upon time, with the league's and Head Referee approval, for proper security to arrive.

c. Reschedule game to the first available opportunity. If the visiting elects this option, and the game does not get rescheduled or played, the result of the game will be entered as a tie on both team's record.

2. There is no appeal remedy available to either team owner regardless of what option was elected and executed by the visiting team owner.

3. Regardless of what option is chosen by the visiting team owner, the home team owner is subject to any and all fines and discipline defined in Rule 24.3.1 in Section-24.

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### **SECTION 34 MEDICAL PLAN AND PERSONNEL**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 34.1 Definition(s)**

1. "EMT" is the acronym for Emergency Medical Technician.
2. "Certified" and/or "licensed" refers to the specific requirements established by the state of Florida for the positions and/or training listed.

#### **Rule 34.2 Medical Personnel / Emergency Medical Requirements**

1. Certified medical personnel must be at all games unless the following apply:
  - a. A hospital or similar type medical center (non-clinic) is located within five (5) miles of the playing venue.
  - b. A fire station is located within two (2) miles of the playing venue.

#### **Rule 34.3 Medical Personnel Qualifications**

1. Any and all medical personnel at a playing venue must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Certified and licensed EMT.
  - b. Basic First Aid/CPR certification.
  - c. Certified and licensed Paramedic

#### **Rule 34.4 Emergency Plan**

1. Each team shall develop and submit to the league office a written "Emergency Medical Plan" for their playing venue prior to the first game of the regular season.
2. The Emergency Medical Plan is to be followed without exception.

#### **Rule 34.5 Lightning Safety Plan**

1. Each team shall develop and submit to the league office a written "Lightning Safety Plan" for their home playing venue prior to the first game of the regular season. Said plan shall consist of the following:
  - a. A location where people will go for safety, specific on-site route details, and how much time it will take for them to get there for all fans in attendance, game day staff, game officials, coaches and players.



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b. The Lightning Safety Plan is to be followed without exception.

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### **SECTION 35 TEAM REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFF ROSTERS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 35.1 Definition(s)**

1. A “Active Roster” is a roster of a team where the players listed are clear to participate in a Football Federation Alliance game.
2. A “Inactive Roster” is a roster of players that are registered with a team, but who are not eligible for play in a Football Federation Alliance game
3. A “Restricted Free Agent” is a player who is placed on the inactive roster but who is not cleared for release because of owing monies or equipment to current team.
4. A “Free Agent” is a player that is on a team inactive roster and who has met all requirements to move to another team freely.
5. A “Special Request” is a request submitted to the Football Federation Alliance requesting the league’s permission of a roster spot for a player with special circumstances.

#### **Rule 35.2 Roster Limit “Active and Inactive”**

1. A team’s active roster is a maximum of fifty-five (55) players.
2. A team may place a maximum of ninety-nine (99) players in its team’s registration.
3. Players that are on the team’s registration but are not on the active roster will be considered “inactive” players.
4. During the regular season, the active roster will be locked each Thursday of the week at 9pm and will be unlocked each Monday at 8am.
5. All players placed on the active roster is the property of said team and is restricted from moving from their present team to any other team, even if said player have been released from their contractual obligation with their current team.
6. Any player that is placed on the inactive roster is considered to be a restricted free agent, and may be released, at the player’s request, provided that he has met all requirements to become a free agent.
7. If an inactive player has requested, and released from his current team’s roster, he may then play for any other team before the eight (8<sup>th</sup>) game of the regular season.
8. All teams must submit their final roster for the remainder of the regular season and post season play the week of the eight (8<sup>th</sup>) regular season game. After this time, the rosters will remain locked until the

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

end of the season.

9. A player that is on the inactive roster of one team, who is subsequently released from said team, can then play for another team. However, that player will not be eligible to be placed on his new team's post season roster if the move occurred after the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) regular season game.

10. A team may place and remove players from its active and inactive roster at will during the season before the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) regular season game. There is no mandatory amount of games that a player needs to be placed on the active roster.

11. A team may place a "special request" with the Football Federation Alliance Vice President of League Affairs, for an exemption to a roster placement, provided the request meets the following criteria;

(a) The player moved to another area of the state that exceeded 100 miles of his original team, and said move was after the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) game of the season;

(b) A player was not able to play for any team before the eight (8<sup>th</sup>) game of the season because of situations that were not under his control, i.e.; family hardships, medical conditions, military service, work outside of the area. Note: Incarceration is not an automatically considered a situation "not" under a player's control.

12. Each team must confirm their opponents' roster before each game by matching it to their opponents' roster listed on the league's website.

13. Any team caught using a player that is not listed on the mandatory fifty-five (55) player roster will be subject to the use of an ineligible player and all discipline regarding said ineligible player will be assessed.

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### **SECTION 36        INSURANCE**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 36.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Proof" shall be defined as a valid copy of an insurance certificate currently in effect.

#### **Rule 36.2    General Information**

1. Each team is required to obtain and maintain a General Liability Insurance policy in the amount of \$1 million, as defined and required in Rule 1.6.1, Section-1, as part of the "minimum standards" of the Football Federation Alliance.

#### **Rule 36.3    Insurance Requirements**

1. A copy of the policy is to be on-file with the league office prior to the first game of the regular season. This is accomplished by emailing it to the Football Federation Alliance Secretary.

2. No league sanctioned game shall be played without proof of a General Liability Insurance on file with the league office.

3. The Football Federation Alliance to be listed as a co-insured on the insurance certificate and/or any associated document(s).

a. The business address of the FFA is: 311 Northlake Blvd. #1011, Altamonte Springs Blvd. 32701

b. The business phone number of the FFA is: (407) 234-3211

#### **Rule 36.4    Alliance Bowl, All-Star Game, and other Pre-Season or Post-Season Events**

1. Proof of General Liability Insurance for any owner/operator of a playing venue chosen for a league sanction pre-season or post-season game or event, or that of the Alliance Bowl and FFA All-Star Game shall be the responsibility of the FFA Executive Administration.

#### **Rule 36.5    Player Injury Insurance**

1. Insurance to cover the on-field injuries sustained by any player during the course of their participation in a league sanctioned game and/or member team activity (i.e., general practice session, workout, scrimmage, exhibition game, etc.) is recommended, but not required.

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### **SECTION 37        FIELD MANAGEMENT**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 37.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Sideline Monitor" shall be defined as the person assigned to maintain "sideline control" and/or unruly behavior of coaches and players so as to be compliant with the rules of the NFL and administrative rules of the FFA.

#### **Rule 37.2    General Information**

1. The person assigned as the "Game Day Staff Director" or "Field Manager" for the home team is responsible for the supervision and management of all game day staff and volunteer positions, as well as maintaining the "Pre-Game Time Schedule" and supervising all activities and events at the host venue.

#### **Rule 37.3    Field Management Requirements**

1. The game day staff director and/or "field manager" must be free of all other duties and cannot be a player or coach.

2. The field manager must be identified to officials, security, P.A. announcer and visiting owner and is to be available via cell phone at all times during game day festivities so as to respond to any and all problems related to game management, security and the health and welfare of everyone in at the playing venue

3. Game entertainment/performances are to be reviewed by the field manager before contracting the organization to perform.

a. Music must be family oriented, void of foul language and mention of sex and violence.

b. A performer's attire must be void of any explicit or offensive public presentation.

c. Dance routines performed by entertainers and/or cheerleaders are to be void of explicit and offensive gestures and/or movement.

4. Any person(s) assigned the responsibility of "sideline monitor" is to be identified by the wearing of a "team/staff ID badge", and shall be introduced to the game officials prior to kick-off so as to allow the game officials to interact with this person on all matters regarding sideline control and behavior.

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

### **SECTION 38 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 38.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Staff" shall be defined as any person assigned to a position with a member team as an executive, manager, director, volunteer, game day or event personnel, etc.
2. "ILA" is the acronym for Internal League Affairs.
3. "Cursory" is defined as being superficial, hasty, quick and/or less than detailed.
4. An "outside person" shall be defined as an individual, or group of people, not directly associated with the league in any way other than that of a fan or interested party.
5. "Associated" shall be defined as a person or group of people involved with the league as a member team and/or member of league staff, Board of Directors, etc.
6. "Complainant" is defined as the person who has filed an official complaint with the league office.
7. "Affiliated" shall be defined as a person directly involved with a member team.

#### **Rule 38.2 General Information**

1. Any and all investigations involving member teams of the Football Federation Alliance, their staff, coaches, and players for any alleged violation of the rules and policies of the league are considered "internal league affairs" (ILA).

#### **Rule 38.3 ILA Investigation Origin and Assignment**

1. An ILA investigation for a violation of league rules and policies shall originate in one of two ways:
  - a. Written complaint via email and/or traditional letter.
  - b. Personal observation by a member of league staff.
2. Generally, any and all complaints concerning rules violations from outside of the league are to be directed to the FFA President, but there may be times that complaints are directed to the FFA Sr. Vice-President or FFA Vice President of League Affairs.
3. Upon review of any complaint received by a member of the league's Executive Administration it is determined that further and/or detailed investigation is warranted beyond that of one that is "cursory" in nature, then it shall be assigned to the Office of the FFA President.

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4. In the event that an assignment of an ILA investigation to the FFA President would pose a clear “conflict of interest” for any reason, the FFA Sr. Vice President reserves the right to handle said investigation personally, or elect to assign it to another member of the league’s Administration Office that has no direct tie and/or affiliation with the case in-question, or assign such to an outside person.

### **Rule 38.4 Complaint Protocol**

1. Anyone who is directly associated with the league who wants to file a written complaint for any perceived violations or league rules must do so through the Office of the FFA Vice President of Grievance and Appeals. The complaint(s) must be in writing and submitted via email and/or traditional mail. Once it is received by the FFA Vice President of Grievance and Appeals, the complaint becomes “official”, and a determination of its status, merit, and eventual disposition will be made accordingly based on the available documented facts.

2. All written complaints should include the following:

- a. Name of complainant and association with the FFA.
- b. Names and affiliations of all persons involved (violators included), as well as their position or title.
- c. Date, time, and location on the rule violation(s) being reported.
- d. Alleged rule(s) violated.
- e. Attachment(s):
  - i. Any and all name(s) of witness(es)
  - ii. Any and all written witness statements
  - iii. Photos
  - iv. Video
  - v. Any other supporting document(s) and/or images (screenshots, etc.)

### **Rule 38.5 Investigation Process**

1. Once the complaint has been assigned for further investigation, all facts, documents, videos, photographs, and other materials supplied by the complainant, as well as those obtained during the investigation will be reviewed.

2. Individual person(s) affiliated with a member team such as an owner, coach, player, or a staff member, that is the focus of any ILA investigation will be notified as such and their full cooperation will be expected.

3. There is no timetable for the completion of any ILA investigation, regardless of who the case is assigned to.

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4. Once the investigation is complete, a report will be filed by the FFA Vice President of Grievance and Appeals detailing the findings with the Office of the FFA President and copied to the FFA Sr. Vice President. The FFA President will then handle the appropriate distribution to all others involved with the ILA investigation in-question, which may, or may not include, notice to the league membership.

### **Rule 38.6 Disposition of an ILA Investigation**

1. Depending on the outcome of an ILA Investigation, the following shall apply:

a. Any “unfounded” case will result in no “formal” disciplinary action required. However, in some cases, the league’s Executive Administration may feel that a “written reprimand” is in order in situations where there is justification for such based on the facts available.

b. Any rules violation(s) discovered to have merit, will be dealt with in accordance with league rules.

### **Rule 38.7 Appeals to Disciplinary Decisions Made by the League**

1. All Appeals must follow the protocol in Section-39 the FFA Rulebook.

2. There is no appeal for any disciplinary action as a result of an ILA investigation.

### **Rule 38.8 Failure to Cooperate with an ILA Investigation**

1. Anyone affiliated with a member team that fails to cooperate fully with any ILA investigation will be subject to a fine of up to \$500, and no less than \$100. In addition, said person(s) will receive an automatic three (3) game suspension, and placed on a two-year administrative probation, and could face expulsion from the league.



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### **SECTION 39            GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 39.1    Definition(s)**

2. "League rules" are defined as the official written rules, policies, and administrative directives of the Football Federation Alliance.
3. "Team rules" are defined as those rules, policies, and administrative directives established by an individual member team in writing, as well as those given verbally that are understood by all members of said team.
4. A "Notice of Grievance" shall be defined as a formal complaint filed due to an alleged wrong doing and/or violation of league rules among members of the league, that includes but is not limited to, owners, staff members, coaches, players, etc. internally, or from those from opposing teams within the league.
5. An "Notice of Appeal" shall be defined as a formal written request to the league from a person affiliated with a member team to have a matter reviewed in a case whereby disposition of a rules violation(s) has already been determined and the petitioner seeks complete or partial relief for themselves or on behalf of another from discipline that has been handed down from an authorized league official.
6. A "petitioner" shall be defined as any person filing a "Notice of Grievance" or a "Notice of Appeal" with the league office concerning any disputes or discipline received as a result of a violation of league rules, respectively.
7. A "grounds for an appeal" shall be defined as details and/or facts as to why an appeal should be considered.
8. A "disposition" shall be defined as a decision made upon a matter, case, grievance, appeal, etc.
9. The term, "determination of merit" shall be defined as having sufficient and/or adequate grounds for further review.
10. The term, "remedy of relief" shall be defined as an act of review or consideration.
11. The term, "Disposition Order Notice" shall be defined as a written notice of a final decision on matter or case of review and/or consideration, such as that of a grievance or appeal.

#### **Rule 39.2    General Information**

1. Misunderstanding and disagreements occur between two or more parties from time-to-time in all walks of life. In most cases a simple phone call or private discussion of some sort with all parties

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involved can resolve any perceived problem. It is strongly recommended that all member teams, their staff, coaches, and players maintain open lines of communication within their organization. Matters such as these, are encouraged to be handled among member team owners without league intervention

2. If any misunderstanding or other issue becomes one of a serious nature that a person feels requires league intervention, there is a specific remedy available for all involved. A “grievance” may be filed as defined in Rule 39.3.2 to request a league review of the matter to resolve any issue(s) brought forward that are “league related”, and not that of a local ordinance, state or federal law.

3. Disputes and/or “serious” matters that have become public and/or have caught the attention of the FFA Board of Directors or the Executive Administration and determined to be detrimental to the league, its membership and image, will be dealt with by the league in immediate fashion without the need for a formal grievance to be filed by any and all parties involved.

### **Rule 39.3 Filing a Grievance**

1. Any person who is affiliated with a member team that has an issue that with another person within his/her organization, or with someone from an outside organization that is a member team, and said issue is one that cannot be resolved without league intervention, can file a “grievance” requesting the league assist all parties involved in resolving any and all issues as it pertains to a violation of league rules.

2. A “Notice of Grievance” must be in writing and include all names of those involved and the details of the dispute as well as the alleged violation of league rule(s). Unless otherwise directed by a member of the FFA Executive Administration, said grievance must be submitted via email to the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals for his review and final disposition.

3. Matters involving the team rules of a member team that do not violate and/or conflict with league rules, policies and directives are not grounds for any grievance and will not be heard.

### **Rule 39.4 Filing an Appeal**

1. Any person that has received a notice of fine or suspension from the FFA, is eligible to file a “Notice of Appeal”, provided the violation(s) are from those that can be appealed (see Rule 39.6 in this section). A Notice of Appeal must be filed within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the initial “Notice of Disciplinary Action”.

2. Unless otherwise directed by a member of the FFA Executive Administration, any person filing a Notice of Appeal must submit a written request via email to the Office of the FFA Vice President of Grievance and Appeals. A team owner is permitted to submit a written appeal on behalf of coach and/or a player that is a member of his/her organization, but there can be only one appeal request, as the FFA will not accept multiple requests for an appeal concerning the same person for the same violation(s).

3. Any written appeal must include the following upon submitting it to the FFA Vice President of

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

### Grievance and Appeals:

- a. Full name of the person who has been disciplined by the FFA (players must include their jersey number).
- b. Provide “grounds for the appeal” (Refer to Rule 39.4.0 carefully when considering the information to be included in any “grounds for appeal”).
- c. Provide valid contact phone numbers of all persons involved, including any and all witnesses to the incident.
- d. Provide any and all evidence (documents, witness statements, photos, videos, etc.) that support your Notice of Appeal.
- e. Provide a disciplinary decision to be considered that is acceptable to the “petitioner”. Examples of such would be:
  - i. Complete dismissal of all discipline assessed.
  - ii. Reduction in fine and/or suspension received (include acceptable amount of fine and/or suspension time).
- f. Any information provided that is similar to the phrases, “I did not intend to do this (or that)”, “I didn’t mean to”, “I do not usually behave in this manner”, “He’s a great guy”, etc., are not grounds for an appeal. A Notice of Appeal filed in this manner will automatically be denied with no opportunity permitted to file a follow-up and/or an alternative appeal.

## **Rule 39.5 Grievance and Appeal Process**

### 1. Grievance:

- a. In most cases, the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals will handle such matters through his office alone, or with the assistance of the FFA President. An ILA investigation request is rare and is a last resort. Once the matter has been thoroughly reviewed, a final disposition on the matter will be sent to the original petitioner from the Office of the FFA Vice President of Grievance and Appeals on behalf of the FFA President, with copies submitted to those involved that have provided emails for such.

### 2. Appeal:

- a. A Notice to Appeal will first be reviewed by the FFA President for merit (valid grounds for appeal). Any Notice of Appeal that lacks merit will be denied with reasons stating such, and the petitioner will receive an “Insufficient Grounds for Appeal Notice”.
- b. A Notice of Appeal that has received a “determination of merit” will be reviewed in its entirety.

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c. During the review process, the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals reserves the right to enlist the assistance of a panel of 3-5 independent persons that may, or may not, be associated with the FFA, but are not affiliated with the petitioner and/or persons directly affected by the case. Any decision issued by such a panel is to be considered a “suggestion” on the matter at-hand, rather than that of a final decision. The creation and implementation of such a panel is an “option”, not a requirement, and is made at the sole discretion of the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals or FFA President, respectively.

### **3. Timetable:**

a. Although each matter or case will be processed immediately, there is no exact timetable for the final disposition of any Notice of Grievance or Notice of Appeal filed with the league.

b. Once a final disposition on any matter or case has been completed, the petitioner will be notified in accordance with league rules in this section.

c. In the case where a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any and all execution of fine amounts and suspension time will be “temporarily on hold” until the final disposition of the matter has been resolved and submitted to the petitioner by the FFA Vice-President of Grievance and Appeals or FFA President.

## **Rule 39.6 Final Disposition of a Grievance or Appeal**

1. Final dispositions for any Grievance or Appeal filed for review by the league will be sent via email to the petitioner, with copies of such sent to all those of which an email address was provided in the original Notice of Grievance or Notice of Appeal.

2. Any Notice of Appeal not filed in accordance with Rule 39.4.1 will be automatically denied and the decision will be considered final.

3. Any “Disposition Order Notice” is final and no additional remedy of relief shall exist within the FFA.

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### **SECTION 40        SUPPORT STAFF**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 40.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Support Staff" shall be defined as any non-Board of Directors or non-Executive Administration position with the Football Federation Alliance.

#### **Rule 40.2    General Information**

1. Support Staff positions are developed by the Executive Administration of the Football Federation Alliance to assist in tasks and projects that are both beneficial to our member teams as well as the efficient operation of the league.

#### **Rule 40.3    Field Marshals**

1. Field Marshals are appointed by the FFA Vice President of League Affairs.
2. Field Marshals are under the direction and supervision of the FFA Vice President of League Affairs.
3. Field Marshals are responsible for attending league sanctioned games scheduled by the FFA Vice President of League Affairs and observe activities associated with game day events, as well as the playing venue.
4. Each Field Marshal is responsible for completing an inspection report and submit it to the FFA Sr. Vice President no later than 8:00 pm, Monday following the game.
5. Field Marshals are considered league officials and "ambassadors" of the Football Federation Alliance under the direct authority of the FFA Vice President of League Affairs and are to be afforded the same respect as any other person assigned to a position with the FFA.

#### **Rule 40.4    Support Staff Positions; Establishment of**

1. At the discretion of the FFA President, a "Support Staff" position shall be created on a "as needed basis" in order to assist the Executive Administration with various duties and tasks that could be beneficial in the efficient operation of the league and or league event (i.e., FFA Championship Weekend, etc.).
2. The implementation of Support Staff are considered "seasonal" appointments and are renewed on an annual basis by the FFA President.
3. The title and responsibilities of each Support Staff position created shall be posted on the league website along with the name of the person assigned to the position.

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4. Unless otherwise noted, Support Staff positions fall under the direction and supervision of the FFA President.

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### **SECTION 41 ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE(S)**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 41.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Administrative Directive" shall be defined as an official administrative order issued by the Office of the FFA President to address a specific issue or matter of importance to the league that is not covered by an established and/or written rule or policy previously adopted and approved by the league and/or its Board of Directors and/or Board of Governors.

2. "Best Interest of the League" shall be defined as a decision issued by way of an Administrative Directive that serves the best interest of the Football Federation Alliance, its Board of Directors, staff, and its membership.

#### **Rule 41.2 Administrative Directive(s); "Best Interest of the League"**

1. Whereas no organization can create and/or develop a rule, policy, or procedure to adequately and appropriately address every potential issue and/or possible problem that may arise at any time, the Office of the President of the Football Federation Alliance may issue an "Administrative Directive" and/or Administrative Order that is deemed necessary and in the "Best Interest of the League", to address such issues that are detrimental to the effective operation or integrity of the league.

2. Any Administrative Directive and/or Administrative Order issued by the Office of the President of the Football Federation Alliance shall become effective immediately and is to serve as a "temporary" policy and procedure concerning a specific issue until such time as it can be brought before the FFA Executive Office and Board of Governors for review.

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### **SECTION 42        FIELD MANAGEMENT**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 42.1    Definition(s)**

1. "Playing Rules" shall be defined as the official league rules for on-field play.

#### **Rule 42.2    Adoption of Rules**

1. The Football Federation Alliance has formally adopted the Official Playing Rules of the National Football League for any and all rules governing on-field play with any and all exceptions noted in the FFA Rulebook.

2. Current FFA rules are in-effect immediately and supersede all previous rules (unless an effective date is otherwise specified).

#### **Rule 42.3    Jersey Number(s)**

1. The FFA shall operate under a "modified" system of player jersey number assignment by permitting member teams to utilize certain jersey numbers that are traditionally reserved for specific positions:

a. Centers and offensive linemen are permitted to wear any number from 50-99.

b. All other positions are permitted to wear numbers from 0-59, or 80-99. Note: the number 00 is not an authorized number in the Football Federation Alliance.

c. One set of duplicate numbers per number is allowed. The rules of play, via the NCAA, will be in effect regarding the use of duplicate numbers.

#### **Rule 42.4    Time Per Quarter of Play**

1. Each quarter of play in both regulation and overtime shall be fifteen (15) minutes in length.

2. In the event that a game has started late for one reason or another, and is not in conflict with Rule 11.6.2, and a local curfew may prevent the game from being completed in its entirety if played in accordance with Rule 42.4.1, then the FFA Sr. Vice President can approve the use of a "running clock" for each quarter of play, and in the process may also authorize a reduction in the time being set per quarter that shall not to exceed a length of less than ten (10) minutes per quarter.

3. Any change to the (15) minute quarter length must be approved by the FFA President or Sr. Vice President before the change is made.

#### **Rule 42.5    Complete Game**



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1. A complete game is recognized as one that is played for a minimum of four quarters of play.
2. In the event of a tie game upon the completion of a regular season game, or that of a postseason game, NFL Rules apply for overtime.
3. If the game must be called due to a local ordinance, severe inclement weather (lightning, etc.) or by darkness due to no lights being available (none installed, power outage, etc.), immediate contact shall be made to the President, Sr. Vice President and/or Vice President of League Affairs. Upon receiving satisfactory information from all parties involved, the contacted authority shall exercise the following options:
  - a. Authorize a reasonable wait period of no more than 45 minutes for the issue prohibiting the game's completion to be resolved.
  - b. In the event that at least three (3) quarters of play have been completed, the incomplete game will be ruled as "complete", and the team leading at that point shall be declared the victor.
  - c. If a game has been stopped at any time before the completion of the third quarter, or the game has been stopped upon the completion of three quarters with the score tied between the two teams in-question, then said game shall be re-scheduled on a date and time to be determined by the league official responsible for scheduling that is practical and agreeable by both teams involved, and shall be played in its entirety from the point and time in which the game was stopped.
  - d. In the event that for any reason an incomplete game cannot be re-scheduled by league officials, and said game has completed three full quarters of play with the score tied, it shall remain a "tie", and scored as such accordingly on the league schedule and standings, and all statistics shall count.
  - e. In the event that for any reason that a game cannot be re-scheduled by league officials, and said game has not completed three full quarters of play, regardless of the score between the two teams involved, it shall be ruled as "incomplete", and will not count as a win, loss, or tie in the league standings for either team, nor shall the score or statistics of said incomplete game count towards league records.

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### **SECTION 43 SOCIAL MEDIA**

Effective Date: June 10, 2020

#### **Rule 43.1 Definition(s)**

1. "Social Media" shall be defined as any site on the world wide web (aka: internet) that is created for the posting and/or replies to posts published for entertainment and/or informational purposes for the benefit of those who are members and/or participants of such (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Tumblr, Google Plus, blogs, message boards, etc.) or the like.

#### **Rule 43.2 Guidelines for Interaction on the Internet in Regard to the FFA**

1. Any individual or group of individuals, associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA, without express written authorization from the FFA, develops or creates a Website, blog, or other electronic media outlet accessible to the general public that will mention the FFA, our current and potential products, associates, employees, partners, customers, and competitors, etc., will be required to identify that they are not a member of the FFA and that the views expressed on the Website, blog or other electronic media outlet accessible to the general public, etc. are theirs alone and do not represent the views of the FFA.

2. Unless given permission by the FFA, you are not authorized to speak on behalf of the FFA, its associates, its organization, etc., or to represent that you do so.

3. Any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA that has an interest in developing or creating a Website, blog, or other electronic media outlet accessible to the general public that would like to mention the FFA, our current and potential products, associates, employees, partners, customers, and competitors, etc., must obtain authorization to do so through the FFA Office of the President.

#### **Rule 43.3 Confidential Information Components**

1. Any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA may not share information that is confidential and/or proprietary about the FFA. This includes, but is not limited to, information regarding trademarks, upcoming product releases, sales, finances, number of products sold, and number of employees, company strategy, member organizations, and any other information that has not been publicly released by the FFA.

2. The previous examples are given as examples only and do not cover the wide range and spectrum of what the FFA considers confidential and proprietary. Any question or doubt about whether information has been released publicly should be immediately addressed with the FFA Office of the President before releasing information that could potentially harm the FFA, or our current and potential member teams, products, employees, partners, and customers.

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3. The FFA logo and trademarks may not be used without explicit permission in writing from the FFA Office of the President.

### **Rule 43.4 Respect and Privacy Rights Components**

1. Any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA are prohibited from speaking negatively about the FFA, our current and potential associates, fans, customers, partners, member organizations and competitors.

2. No individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA shall engage in name calling or behavior that will reflect negatively on the FFA and its reputation.

3. Comments by any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA found to be derogatory, demeaning or offensive will be investigated by the FFA Office of the President and will result in disciplinary action up to, and including, removal from the league.

4. The FFA encourages any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA, when interacting on the internet, to write knowledgeably, accurately, and using appropriate and acceptable language to display professionalism. Despite disclaimers, your web interaction can result in associates of the public forming unfavorable and/or negative opinions about the FFA and its fans, employees, partners, products, member organizations, etc.

5. To protect the privacy rights of our associates of the FFA, any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA must seek permission from the FFA Office of the President before writing about and/or displaying internal company happenings that might be considered to be a breach of their privacy and confidentiality.

### **Rule 43.5 Your Legal Liability Component**

1. Any individual or group of individuals associated in any manner or fashion with the FFA are legally liable for anything written or presented online (i.e., images, illustrations, etc.). Employees, Players, Coaches, Staff and Owners of the FFA can and will be disciplined by the Executive Administration of the FFA for commentary, content, images or illustrations that are defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous, offensive or that can create a hostile work environment. Associate actions will be investigated by the FFA Office of the President and/or Office of the Sr. Vice President to determine appropriate action.

### **Rule 43.6 Media Contact Component**

1. Media contacts and comments about FFA Associates, member team, our current and potential partners must receive guidance from the FFA Administration.

### **Rule 43.7 Violations of Section-43**

## **FOOTBALL FEDERATION ALLIANCE - Rules and Regulations**

1. Violations of this section are subject to minimum fines of \$25 per occurrence and/or a single fine amount not to exceed \$500, but shall not be limited to suspension and/or revocation of league membership and/or competition from league play as a roster athlete for any length of term deemed appropriate by league officials.