

# ***Nisqually Jr. Football League Bylaws***

## **Mission**

The Nisqually Junior Football League is a non-profit organization that has the sole purpose of providing youth football in the Pierce County area for youth between ages of 6 and 14. We are dedicated to providing the best coaching, equipment, and competition for all who participate in this league. Though this is a competitive league, safety and sportsmanship shall never give way to competition.

## **Goals**

Instill and promote the character values:

- Respect – for yourself, opponents, officials, and spectators.
- Responsibility – accountable for one’s own actions
- Integrity – truthfulness and following through with commitments
- Sportsmanship – fair play
- Develop Skills in football
- Develop team spirit
- Encourage fun and enjoyment

## **Authority**

The Board of Directors (Board) reserves the right to make any player and coach assignments determined to be in the best interests of the NJFL and the welfare of its members.

## **Board Procedures**

The Board of Directors shall consist of An Executive Board made up of President, Vice President, Secretary/Registrar, Insurance and Safety. May include other General Board officers each with defined positions and responsibilities. The Executive Board positions shall be as follows:

**President** – Ensures that the NJFL has a clear vision, is well organized, and is progressing toward its overall goals. Responsible for over sight (purchasing, maintaining, and storing) of League equipment. Secures and manages field availability. Responsible for coordinating the schedule to ensure all games have officials.

**Vice President** – Works with the NJFL President on all football related issues. Shall perform all the duties of the President in the absence of the President. Responsible for rules enforcement. Shall be qualified to serve in any other elected or appointed capacity. Will work with all Board members to assist on all projects as needed to keep processes running smoothly.

**Secretary/Registrar** – Schedules, prepares, and records all NJFL Board meetings. Ensures the Board uses an effective process for meetings, decision making, and League communications (email, website). Responsible for registration of all League created franchise registrations. Works with the Treasurer to ensure that the all registrations are compiled and separated into the appropriate teams according to their school districts. Produces a full league roster, helps verify eligibility. Includes any league affiliated certifications and designations such as USA football, etc.

**Insurance** - Responsible for acquiring the required insurance coverage for the League and its participants. Ensuring all organizations have certificates of liability for all facilities used for fundraising, practice, or games.

**Safety** – Is the league USA Football Player Safety Coach. Oversees that all organizations have assigned a USA Football Player Safety Coach. Also responsible for making sure that all coaches in the league are USAF certified/recertified. Ensures that a channel of communications exists during the season for coaches, reps, parents, and organization Presidents to register general safety concerns regarding on-the-field related activity. Has the autonomy to assign non-board members as assistants as needed based on the number teams, geography, etc. Will report to the Board any concerns filed and work with the Board on solutions to problems. Position to work directly with the Vice President on all on-the-field rules violations that are registered.

## League Franchises

The Nisqually Junior Football League (NJFL) is comprised of 12 franchises. Each franchise shall be comprised of any number of teams at one or all of the levels of competition. Nearly each franchise's draw area is congruent to the local high school boundary with few exceptions. The franchises and local high schools (when applicable) are as follows:

- Auburn Riverside
- Bethel Braves
- Eatonville Jr. Cruisers
- Fife Jr. Trojans
- Lakewood LumberJacks
- Paladin Youth Football
- Orting Jr. Cardinals
- Puyallup Jr. Vikings
- Spanaway Lakes Sentinels
- Tacoma Steelers
- Tahoma Bears
- White River Wolverines

## Expectations of Franchises in League

- New Teams Entering League:
  - 2 years' probation coming into the league.
- New Teams Removal from League:
  - 50% Board vote to remove from the league.
- Established Teams Removal:
  - 75% Board vote to remove from league.
- Any discussion involving issues like this will be resolved at January meetings each year.
- Security and Safety:
  - Each organization is responsible to conduct a background check of all volunteers including all football coaches, cheer coaches, D&O's and field marshals.
  - All football coaches must clear the background check and get certified through USA Football in order to participate on the field or any league facility.

## **Levels of Competition**

Competition levels are separated by Grade and Age of the participant. If a player reaches the maximum listed age before **August 31<sup>st</sup>**, they are ineligible to play in that age group and must move up. Per Division, after grade first, the cutoffs are as follows:

### **Divisions:**

1st/2nd Grade – 9 years old

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 11 years old

5<sup>th</sup>Grade – 12 years old

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 13 years old

7th/8th Grade – 15 years old

## **Franchise Roles/Responsibilities**

Member Franchises will set and collect their own player fees and provide their own equipment. All affiliate members will comply with the applicable NJFL rules, team structure, and work within the league framework to ensure fair competition and good sportsmanship.

### **Field Marshal**

Each franchise will appoint a Field Marshal (FM) when playing at their home field every time their organization hosts a contest. The FM is responsible for managing the game site. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- Ensure that ALL on-field personnel for home and visiting teams have appropriate identification to be allowed on the field.
- Setting up the field including pylons, yard markers, and chains if available
- Monitor games for behavior and safety incidents
- Fill out any incident reports if needed

### **Chain Gang**

The visiting team will provide volunteers to act as the chain gang for their game. The chain gang will obey the instructions of the game officials at all times. Representing teams' chain gangs must be on the opposite team sidelines at all times. In the event that the visiting teams do not have enough volunteers and the home team supplies the chain gang, they also must be on the opposite team sidelines.