



The Players Football Association

ByLaws 2025

Article 1: Organization

1.1 Name

The name of this organization is The Players Football Association, hereinafter to be known as The PFA. The PFA By-Laws are for guidance and structure.

1.2 Mission and Purpose

The mission of The PFA is to regulate and promote a high level of competition at the Professional Advancement Football level and provide opportunities for its players to enhance their advancement whatever that may look like, regardless if it's for participation in arena football, the Canadian Football League, NCAAF, UFL, and NFL levels. The ultimate goal is to have fun, evolve, and prosper in a mature environment.

1.3 Structure

The PFA shall have a commissioner, who shall serve as the organization's Chief Executive Officer and have the rights and responsibilities generally associated with the position. At their discretion, The Commissioner may delegate their authority to members of the Front Office. Each member of the Front Office will have similar authority as the Commissioner, on and off the field. They have a responsibility to uphold the association and its functions without question.

Each participating franchise shall be considered members of The PFA. Each franchise shall be able to propose by-laws and rule-playing changes or modifications as a member. Upon receipt of such a proposal, The Commissioner shall call for a vote from all participating franchises in The PFA. For a by-law or rule change to occur, an affirmative vote of more than 50% of participating franchises in The PFA must occur.



1.4 Commissioner and Powers

David Duncan, hereinafter known as The Commissioner, has the ability to change or default any aspect of the association as he sees fit given the grounds to do so which is also called “an executive decision”.

1.5 Organized Football

The PFA shall comprise two divisions of competition, 2A and 3A, based on the competitiveness of each franchise. The Commissioner will make the final determination of divisional placement for each participating franchise.

Article 2: Membership Requirements

2.1 Eligibility

Any person, association, partnership, corporation, or other entity of good standing organized for the purpose of operating a Professional Advancement Football franchise shall be eligible for membership in The PFA. Each franchise shall formally send a letter of internet to The Commissioner of The PFA to officially apply for admission into The PFA.

2.2 Franchise Designees

Each member of The PFA shall designate a franchise designee. A franchise designee will be the primary point of contact between The Commissioner, Front Office, and the other franchises. This will consist of owners, coaches, and one player representative from each franchise, all of which will be in one group chat.

2.3 Franchise Contact Information

Franchise contact must have a valid email address and working phone for use by all PFA member franchises and The PFA Front Office.



2.4 Franchise Website, Social Media, and Streaming

All franchises are required to have a website and/or franchise Facebook/social media presence-page with updated franchise information. The site should contain a franchise logo and The PFA logo. All posts are to “tag” The PFA page when available to do so.

All franchises are REQUIRED to live stream all games, home and away, and a link to the stream is required to be sent to The PFA group chat. A recording of each game is to be sent to Chris Cousins Sr, Director of Podcasting, for The PFA podcast, The Rundown. Failure to live stream any games will result in a \$200 fine for the 1st offense with subsequent offenses resulting in a \$300 fine.

Marketing, advertising, and updates are required in every aspect pertaining to said franchise.

2.5 Franchise Statistics

All franchises will have and provide stats no later than 11:59pm on the Tuesday following the previous game. Stats are to be turned in to Brien Mitchum, Director of Media Development and Sarah Brooks, Director of Administrative Affairs. All stats will be updated and accurate prior to being released to The PFA Media Team and put onto The PFA website. Failing to submit statistics by the deadline will result in a \$200 fine and must be paid prior to the next game played.

2.6 Good Standing

Each member franchise must be in “good standing” to maintain its membership in The PFA. “Good standing” means said franchise has fulfilled its financial obligations to The PFA, has not forfeited any games for the current season, and has not committed any willful acts against The PFA or its member franchises, as determined by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be the authority in deciding whether a franchise is in “good standing”.



2.7 Admission of New Franchises

A. Process for Admission

Each franchise shall formally send a letter of intent to The Commissioner of The PFA to formally apply for admission into The PFA. The Commissioner shall have the sole authority to approve or deny any application to join The PFA.

B. Prohibition of Duplicative Names

The franchise seeking admittance into The PFA as a member franchise may only share the same name as an existing franchise in The PFA if the existing franchise waives such protection in writing to The PFA Commissioner.

C. Minimum Qualifications for Admission

Any prospective franchise must show:

1. Financial stability
2. Operational stability
3. Availability of adequate playing facilities

2.8 Meetings

The PFA will host an annual meeting before each season and weekly meetings during the season. Attendance at each meeting is mandatory, and each franchise must have at least one participant attend every meeting, unless The Commissioner gives prior permission and communication has been received. Failure to attend a meeting will result in a fine of \$300.

2.9 Liability Insurance and Security/ Police

Each franchise shall carry general liability insurance before the start of the season and provide proof of insurance to Joe Long, Executive Director, and Sarah Brooks, Director of Administrative Affairs. (Katy Insurance)

PFA franchises are mandated to have armed security or Sworn Police at all home games at a minimum of 2 officers per home game. Failure to do so without communication to The Commissioner will result in a fine of \$200.



2.10 Waivers of Medical Liability

Each franchise shall require each player on their roster to sign a medical release and liability waiver before participation in franchise activities.

Article 3: League Fees

3.1 Amount

Each year, by January 1st, The Commissioner will set the league fees for the upcoming season and the date on which the fees are due to be paid in full. This notification will be done in writing, and each franchise must acknowledge receipt of the communication. The Commissioner has the authority to set the dues at their discretion.

3.2 Player Registration Fees

Each year, by January 1st, The Commissioner will set the player registration fees for the upcoming season and the date on which the fees are due to be paid in full.

3.3 Failure to Pay

Failure to pay the league fees and/or player registration fees by the prescribed deadline can result in fines or other sanctions as determined by The Commissioner.

Article 4: League Schedules

4.1 Setting the Schedule

The Commissioner will, before the beginning of the season, notify each franchise designee of the upcoming schedule requirements and season start date. The commissioner will work directly with each franchise on any scheduling difficulties.

The Commissioner will create and publish the league schedule within reason before the start of the regular season. The season will always start the first weekend in May.



4.2 Rescheduling

A. Permissible reasons

A game may be rescheduled due to:

1. Forecasted or observed inclement weather
2. Franchise sickness
3. Any other unforeseeable event that precludes a franchise from playing

B. Procedure for determining to reschedule before game day

Suppose a franchise anticipates a need to reschedule a game before the day of the game. In that case, the franchise designee shall contact the league Commissioner and the opposing franchise's designee to inform each of the situation. Upon hearing from each franchise representative, The Commissioner shall render a decision no later than 24 hours before the game. The franchise not moving to reschedule the game may be entitled to reimbursement for expenses by the other franchise at the discretion of The Commissioner. One of which is an automatic \$1000 fine to the franchise as well as any produced receipts by the opposing franchise will and must be paid in full. Failure to do so will result in said franchise removal from the association and a 1-year ban.

C. Procedure for determining to reschedule on game day

Each franchise should avoid rescheduling the game on gameday as reasonably as possible. Suppose a franchise anticipates a need to reschedule a game on the day of the game. In that case, the franchise designee shall contact the league Commissioner and the opposing franchise's designee to inform them of the situation. Upon hearing from each franchise's representative, The Commissioner shall render a decision. The franchise not moving to reschedule the game may be entitled to reimbursement for expenses by the other franchise at the discretion of The Commissioner. One of which is an automatic \$1000 fine to the franchise as well as any produced receipts by the opposing franchise will and must be paid in full. Failure to do so will result in said franchise's removal from The PFA and a 1-year ban.



4.3 Forfeits

A. A forfeit will be declared when:

1. One franchise fails to show up for the game.
2. The home franchise changed the game time, day, or location without giving proper notification to The Commissioner and the visiting franchise. Adequate time shall be defined as a minimum of 48 hours notice in writing.
3. The officials called the game due to the conduct of a player and or Franchise.
4. Any other reason as deemed necessary by The Commissioner.

B. Score. Any game resulting in a forfeit before the game has taken place will result in a 21-0 win for their opponent. If a game has been forfeited during the game, the Commissioner shall determine the score.

1. If a franchise is traveling to a host franchise and needs the game to be extended due to an “act of God” or a means that is beyond their control there shall be granted a 45 minute to 1 hour grace period. At which time the referees will be notified and compensated by the visiting franchise in the amount of \$125 per referee. Communication must be established immediately by the traveling franchise.

All of which will result in reimbursement and a \$1000 fine unless otherwise stated or specified by The Commissioner.

Article 5: Conduct and Regulations of Member Franchises

5.1 Roster

A member franchise’s official date to start signing players is November 1st. Each franchise shall furnish The Commissioner with a franchise roster identifying all participating players. The roster will include the player’s full name, position, uniform number, height, weight, years played in high school/college/professional advancement football and name of institution, a valid email address, and a picture of the player in uniform. A form for the rosters will be available on The PFA website.



Starting week 1 of the regular season, all franchise's will produce a roster every week that will be sent to Sarah Brooks, Director of Administrative Affairs, by 11:59pm the Friday before the game. Failure to do so without communication will result in a \$200 fine that will be due the following Sunday before the weekly meeting. If the fine is not paid in full, you will forfeit the following week's game. If there are any roster adjustments on game day, please notify The Commissioner and Sarah Brooks, Director of Administrative Affairs, immediately.

Each player is required to have a picture in uniform for their franchise roster and have paid the required registration fee prior to participation in any contest. All coaches and all staff members of each franchise are required to have pictures taken for The PFA website and The PFA podcast, The Rundown.

5.2 Player Participation

Players cannot sign to more than one PFA franchise at a time during the season. Players have the ability to sign to multiple franchises OUTSIDE of The PFA. Be advised, there is a difference between The PFA contract and the contract of your franchise. The PFA contract cannot supersede your own franchise contract, nor can it ACT as a contract for your franchise.

5.3 Updating Roster

Players may be added/removed until 11:59pm the Friday of week 4 of the regular season when the rosters will be locked. The Commissioner and Sarah Brooks, Director of Administrative Affairs, shall be informed of all roster transactions.

5.4 Releasing of Players and Players Rights

Players who sign a contract with a franchise can be released in one of two ways. Be mindful there is a difference between The PFA contract and your franchise contract.

- A. Free Release: A player may ask their Head Coach or Franchise Owner for a release. The player may seek an opportunity with another member franchise if the release is granted and the player has fulfilled all obligations of said franchise. If the player is signing with a franchise before week 4, the player does not have to observe a wait period. A franchise cannot hold



a players contract against their will unless obligations have NOT been met. If a player has not signed your franchise contract, The PFA contract will NOT be valid in regards to NOT releasing and/or SIGNING said player(s).

- B. Forced Release: A player may ask their Head Coach or Franchise Owner for a release. If the release is granted and is outside of the 4 week period, the player will NOT have the ability to play in The PFA for that season. That said franchise is required to have a fee in place for said player to pay for their “Forced Release”.
- C. Players Rights: A player has a right to request counsel with The PFA Front Office and Commissioner to plead their case. If granted, a player must present facts and evidence in regards to the matter at hand. This falls into the category of contracts, disciplinary action, disciplinary proceedings, and other forms of punishment or debacle. Once a case has been adjudicated, there can be nothing after the fact. The Commissioner and The PFA Front Office can deny if enough information has been provided previously.
- D. Overturning: The PFA Front Office has the authority to overturn any judgment based on criteria of the case and as they see fit within reason. If a judgment cannot be reached, The PFA Front Office will request a franchise meeting with all franchises to determine the best possible outcome at which time said judgment will be decided by a voting process of your peers.

5.5 Free Agency After the Season

Once the season has been completed (after The PFA Championships), all players will be considered “Free Agents”. Free agents can change franchise affiliation without a release from their previous franchise, provided the player has no outstanding equipment or financial obligations to their last franchise.



5.6 Prohibition of Recruiting of Players on Active Roster

No franchise may recruit any player currently on another PFA franchise's active roster to join their roster. Recruiting includes the direct solicitation by a franchise member to another player. This rule takes effect at the beginning of week one of the regular season. If you are found in contempt of this rule, you will be fined \$200.

5.7 Payment to Players on Active Roster

Any and all franchises may compensate any player on their active roster for their participation.

5.8 Prohibition of the Participation of Previously Disciplined Players

Any player suspended or permanently expelled from The PFA or any franchise, whether it's within or outside our jurisdiction, is ineligible to be on any franchise roster. Said player will serve a 1-season suspension from the date of ruling.

5.9 Uniforms

- A. Jerseys: At a minimum, franchises must have 2 sets of jerseys; dark and light. Dark-colored jerseys shall be worn at home and light-colored jerseys shall be worn when away. This requirement can be waived with the agreement of both franchises in a contest and The Commissioner.
- B. Helmets: All helmets must be matching in color and logo.
- C. Other Equipment: All other equipment must conform to the provisions and requirements of The PFA.

Article 6: Game Requirements

6.1 Confirmation of Game Details

During the week of the game, and no later than Tuesday of that week, the home franchise must:

- A. Confirm the game date, time, and location to the visiting franchise and The Commissioner by 8:00pm on the Tuesday before the game. The visiting franchise must confirm receipt of this confirmation by 8:00pm on the Wednesday of that week.



- B. Confirm the game date, time, and location to the game officials and Andy Hamilton, Director of Officials, by Wednesday at 8:00pm the week of the game. No game can be held before 4:00pm with a franchise that has a 2 hour or more travel time, regardless of it being a non-season game(preseason) or regular season game.

6.2 Field Requirements

A host site must have:

- A. A lined field ready for play by kickoff with goal posts
- B. A minimum of 8 pylons(4 in each end zone)
- C. Lights that are accessible to be used anytime the game officials deem them to be needed
- D. Designated changing area for the visiting franchise to dress. This should include a large bathroom with showers and a storage room
- E. A working scoreboard
- F. Access to water fill-up stations
- G. A chain crew of at least 3 people above the age of 18 is required unless both franchise's Head Coaches agree and the Head Official approves someone under the age of 18 but at least 14 years old. All chain crew members shall always be attentive while refraining from talking to players and coaches from either franchise and may not use their cellular phones during the game.
- H. In the event a host franchise is not able to provide a crew for their home game, the franchise in question is required to provide immediate communication to the visiting franchise upon learning of the situation. If an agreement can be reached by both franchises, then the game can proceed without question.



6.3 Game Dates and Times

Unless otherwise agreed to by The Commissioner, all games can be held on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday with start times beginning at 7:00pm. No game can be held before 4:00pm with a franchise that has a 2 hour or more travel time regardless of it being a non-season game(preseason) or regular season game. In the worst case scenario, communication will be had if games are to be played on a different date, time, and location.

6.4 Game Officials

Each game shall be officiated with a minimum of 5 Class 1 (High School Varsity) certified officials assigned by Andy Hamilton, Director of Officials, unless otherwise agreed to by The Commissioner. Officiating fees for the 2025 season shall be \$125 per official. The home franchise shall pay all officials before the start of any contest. Failure to do so will result in the game not being permitted to start until payment has been received. Failure to start the game within 30 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time due to awaiting payment will result in the game being deemed forfeited by the home franchise.

Article 7:Game Procedures

7.1 Playing Rules

The official playing rules of The PFA will be the NCAA Football Rules, except for Instant Replay. Franchises may vote on rule changes at the first annual league meeting before the start of the season. All playing rule changes will be communicated to each franchise before the beginning of the season. Rules will only be permitted to be changed after the first annual league meeting if the front office staff deem it to be needed and a majority vote is passed to change the said rule.



7.2 Game Ball

Each team shall furnish their game ball(s). Each game ball must be:

- A. New or nearly new
- B. Cover consisting of 4 panels of pebble-grained leather without corrugations other than seams
- C. One set of 8 equally spaced lacings
- D. Natural tan color
- E. Conforms to maximum and minimum dimensions and shape indicated in the NCAA Football rule book
- F. Inflated to the pressure of 12-14 pounds per square inch
- G. Weight of 14 to 15 ounces
- H. Not altered

7.3 Warm Up Period

The field must be available to both franchises at least 1 hour before kickoff. Locker room and shower access is to be available to franchises traveling 2 or more hours to an event.

Article 8: Playoffs

8.1 Qualifications

- A. Seeding will be determined by overall record and the tiebreaker procedure.
- B. Location and times MUST BE forwarded by 8:00pm the Tuesday before the game. Both franchises are to see if their field is available. If the home franchise cannot host then the away franchise can opt to host. If the away franchise does not want to host, then the home franchise would receive a forfeit loss due to inability to provide a field.
- C. Best overall win/loss record
- D. Point differential overall(points scored minus points allowed)



Article 9: League Conduct Policy

9.1 Policy

Any player/coach ejected from a game for ANY reason, especially striking an opponent with the intent to cause bodily harm(fighting and/or retaliation towards someone) shall be ejected for the remainder of the game and the player/coach must leave the playing field immediately. All ejections are accompanied by a minimum franchise fine of \$200 along with further suspension and/or punishment by Delzeta Humphrey, Director of Rules and Regulations, at their leisure. All punishments will be dealt with on a case by case basis. All rules will be enforced regardless of scrimmage, non-season games(preseason), regular season, and post season games.

- A. Leave the playing field and the game site location immediately. As outlined above, the game shall not restart until the player(s) have been removed. Failure of the player(s) to leave as instructed shall result in the player(s) franchise forfeiting the contest
- B. The player must meet with Delzeta Humphrey, Director of Rules and Regulations, before being permitted to return and play again. Failure to meet with the Director of Rules and Regulations will result in a suspension until a meeting has occurred.
- C. If a player is removed from a franchise roster or practice due to recklessness, poor behavior, or behavior detrimental to the franchise and or association that said player will be suspended from participating on current PFA franchises for a minimum of 1 year.
If a player is ejected again for a 2nd time for the above-mentioned fraction(s) after returning to play after all required steps have been met, the player will be expelled from the league indefinitely.



9.2 Sidelines

Any player(s) or franchise personnel who leave their sideline during a fight or for any other reason listed (other than the Head Coach or designated coach) will be ejected from the game and subject to Administrative Review. Furthermore, if 4 or more individuals, as outlined above, come onto the field during a fight, taunting, and threatening that franchise shall get a 15-yard penalty.

9.3 Misconduct and Behavior

- A. Destruction of property
- B. Menacing-Examples include- following officials and/or players to the parking lot to argue or cause ill will to the individual(s) through words or physical contact
- C. Misconduct and behavior on the field of play and/or sidelines:
 - 1. Overbearing behavior towards game officials and/or fans
 - 2. Use of racial remarks towards fans, officials, players, and/or staff
 - 3. Any other type of misconduct and behavior that the Front Office deem to violate the rules as outlined in the NCAA Rulebook and PFA Guidelines
- D. Branding or threatening to use and/or retrieve a weapon(s)
- E. Distribution, ingestion, or sale of any form of alcohol or illegal drugs
- F. Allowing a suspended player(s) to participate in the game.

9.4 Amendments and Changes

The PFA reserves the right to amend and/or change any by-laws on a case by case basis

- A. Under the circumstances that a situation is of a significant, substantial, and serious concern or incident, there will be an arbitration hearing. This will include the parties and/or franchises in question along with 3rd party individual(s) who do NOT have an affiliation with The PFA. The 3rd party's deciding vote will determine the final ruling. At which time they can give their suggestions on consequences and repercussions to The PFA Front Office which will be decided on quickly and sufficiently.



9.5 Banning of a Player

Any player who has been banned from The PFA can request a hearing with the Front Office. At which time the Front Office will discuss the outcome amongst the franchises in regards to their respective thoughts. A decision will be given no later than 5 business days.

Owner Name Printed

Date

Owner Name Signed

Franchise

The Commissioner