

**2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**  
**&**  
**BYLAWS**  
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# **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

## **DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

**The Downriver Junior Football League's Purpose is to provide a healthy, typically American, body-contact sport for the average youth.**

**Starting with the premise that youths will play football anyway, anyhow, and anywhere, the League directs this activity to proper playing fields, provides the best protection equipment and competent instruction.**

**The League recognizes as valid the usual criticism leveled at programs of this type, that being that the good done by the program as a whole can be outweighed by the harm derived from the undue mental pressures placed upon players of this age by the need to win. The program places emphasis on good sportsmanship, teamwork and team discipline by players, coaches, and all representatives of the franchise, which is to say, perhaps, that winning at any cost is what is de-emphasized.**

**Therefore, the weight limitations are designed to tailor the program for the average youth of 7 – 13, the youth who, in most cases, will not otherwise have the opportunity during their school career to participate in the contact sports. Combined with the age limitations that provide for three different teams within a unit, there are achieved equal competitive standards during game participation.**

**The players play a good and hard game, and half lose each time, as it must be. The Downriver Junior Football League wants the half that loses to be proud of the game they played and the way they played, too. With that purpose accomplished, the League can be proud of its program.**

# **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

**2010 - OFFICERS - 2010**

**2010 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2010**

**2010 - PLAYING RULES & ELIGIBILITY - 2010**

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# **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

**2010 - ORGANIZATION & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - 2010**

**2010 - CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE - 2010**

**2010 - INSURANCE COMMITTEE - 2010**

**2010 - HEAD OFFICIAL - 2010**

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**2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

**2010 - MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS - DIRECTORS & OTHER CONTACTS**

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# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

**The rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations, and the Michigan High School Athletic Association, shall apply to all teams of the member organizations except as herein noted. All rules of the Downriver Junior Football League shall be binding on all members, and without exception, for the year 2010.**

## DEFINITIONS

### A. Member/Member Organization

A member shall be considered a duly incorporated body holding a franchise in the Downriver Junior Football League.

### B. Unit

A unit shall be considered as three (3) teams, consisting of a Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman Football Teams, with Cheerleading Teams of the same distinction.

### C. Teams

1. All football teams shall consist of a minimum roster of thirteen (13) eligible and physically fit football players for League scheduled games.
2. All cheerleader teams shall consist of a minimum roster of three (3) eligible and physically fit cheerleaders or mascots for the League scheduled games.

### D. Agent

An Agent is any person or committee acting in an official capacity of a member organization.

### E. Practice

Practice is defined as the assembly of football players and/or cheerleaders, under the direction of any agent of any Member Organization for the purpose of conditioning, training of football or cheerleading skills, or for the development of strategy.

### F. Cheerleader

A cheerleader is a person who leads or directs the cheering of Fans or Spectators in traditional or formal cheering and who must comply with the DJFL age requirements for their respective teams.

### G. Cheerleader Mascot

A cheerleader mascot is a person who performs sideline chants with the member organization. Mascots will be considered eligible members of the cheerleading teams, and must be younger than Freshman DJFL age requirement. Mascots are not allowed to stunt or participate in DJFL annual events.

### H. Football Mascot

A football mascot is a person who performs sideline duties such as provide water during time outs, control footballs for the referees or similar activities. Mascots will not be considered eligible members of the football teams and must be younger than Freshman DJFL age requirements.

### I. Junior Coach

A Junior Coach is a person that acts in a similar role as any other assistance coach. Any coach seventeen (17) years or younger will be considered a junior coach. A junior coach shall complete a Junior Coach's Contract and have a doctor's physical.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

## RULE I - ELIGIBILITY RULES

**A. Each football player, cheerleader, and mascot who participates in the Downriver Junior Football League must meet any and all specific requirements for their participation including; Registration, Age, Weight, Residency or Waiver, Physical Examination, and participation.**

1. Eligibility may be checked and tested at any time during the pre-season, regular season, and post season.
2. Any football player, cheerleader, or mascot found to be participating in any practice and / or game without meeting the League requirements as specified in Rule I will be removed from the field or event area, and deemed ineligible for participation in the Downriver Junior Football League until such time as all eligibility requirements are met.
3. Member organizations found to have any ineligible football player, cheerleader, or mascot participating in practice, games, or other League approved events; will be penalized as indicated in this rule and/or Rule VIII, F, 6-7-8.

## **B. REGISTRATION**

1. Registration is mandatory for each football player, cheerleader, and mascot on a form approved and provided by the Downriver Junior Football League. Each Registration Form must be properly completed, include all required attachments, and be legitimately notarized to be accepted as valid by the Downriver Junior Football League.

## **C. REGISTRAR RECOGNITION & RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Registrars will only be recognized by the Downriver Junior Football League if designated as such by the member organization for which they are providing their services. The designation will be made in the form of a letter to the League, from the appropriate member organization, including the legitimate name of the Registrar and his or her correct address and telephone number.
2. The Registrar for each member organization is held responsible for the following:
  - (a) To attend the Annual Registrar Meeting.
  - (b) To acquire and maintain individual League Registration Forms, with all required attachments, for each individual football player, cheerleader, and mascot participating with his or her member organization.
  - (c) To have all required registration forms and attachments completed and legitimately notarized as may be required before the onset of participation in practice by any football player, cheerleader, or mascot.
  - (d) To verify and guarantee that all requirements of the Registrar's Instructions are met and abided by.
  - (e) To have properly completed Coaches Contracts on hand prior to the participation of any individual in a coaching capacity.
  - (f) To have the registration forms with any attachments, and completed Coaches Contracts, readily available at all times during any organized practice, game, or event wherein the teams are participating.
3. Minimum Required Attachments to League Registration Forms include:
  - (a) A true copy of the Birth Certificate for any football player, cheerleader, or mascot.
  - (b) A completed Health History Form as provided by the League.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (c) A copy of League Waiver Form for any football player, cheerleader, or mascot who may require it. A Waiver Renewal must also include a copy of the original Waiver.

## D. AGE REQUIREMENT

- 1. All participants League Age is as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2010 season.

See Age & Birth date Table immediately following:

Age & Birth Dates			
SEASON	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10
2010	12/2/2001 to 12/1/2002	12/2/2000 to 12/1/2001	12/2/1999 to 12/1/2000
SEASON	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13
2010	12/1/1998 to 12/1/1999	12/2/1997 to 12/1/1998	12/2/1996 to 12/1/1997

True copies of birth certificates must be verified by Member Organization for each new participant, and shall be deemed valid for the balance of his/her eligibility with that Member Organization. Veteran birth certificates transferred from the prior year are considered to be valid, but are subject to test at any time. A United States Passport may be substituted for a birth certificate.

- 2. Age Requirements per Team:
  - (a) Freshman football players shall only be of League ages eight (8) or Nine (9) years.
  - (b) Junior Varsity football players shall only be League ages ten (10), eleven (11) and overweight (8) eight and any nine (9) year olds. Eight (8) year-old players, whose weight mandates participation at the Junior Varsity level, will be subject to the discretion of the Member Organization, and the Head Coach of the Junior Varsity Team that the player may be joining. Eight (8) year olds must have written consent from a Parent or Guardian to participate on Junior Varsity.
  - (c) Varsity football players shall be of League ages twelve (12), thirteen (13), and overweight ten (10) and any eleven (11) year olds. Ten (10) year-old players, whose weight mandates participation at the Varsity level, will be subject to the discretion of the Member Organization, and the Head Coach of the Varsity Team that the player may be joining. Ten (10) year olds must have written consent from a Parent or Guardian to participate on Varsity.

## E. FOOTBALL PLAYER WEIGHT

- 1. Weight will only be determined on an Official Weigh-in Scale.
  - (a) Each Home Team will provide an annually certified, beam-type scale, and a fifty (50) pound test weight certified on "Even" years, for use at Official Weigh In.
    - (1) Failure to provide the required scale and test weight will result in delay of the start of any game, and will subject the responsible member organization to penalties.
- 2. The maximum weight for participation in any practice, scrimmage, or game will be as follows:
  - (a) Freshman players shall be no more than 110 pounds.
  - (b) Junior Varsity players shall be no more than 130 pounds.
  - (c) Varsity players shall be no more than 150 pounds.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

3. Each player will be allowed 2 additional pounds at the Official Weigh-in for temperatures less than 45 degrees.
  - (a) Player must have on cold weather gear (thermo underwear, sweatshirts, long sleeve shirts, etc.) to receive the cold weather allowance.
  - (b) If a player exceeds the weight limit with the 2-pound allowance and must remove clothing then the player must remove enough clothing to make the original weight limit.
    - (1) If the player meets the weigh-in requirements the player may restore all of the cold weather garments that were removed.
  - (c) There shall be no weight allowance given at the Official Weigh In other than stated above.
4. A player's maximum weight for participation is his / her total weight in the League required uniform, less helmet, shoulder pads; League approved shoe and any football uniform options.
  - (a) Shoulder pads, League approved playing shoes, allowable football uniform options, and / or additional clothing for warmth, will be added at the Official Weigh-in Scale, after the player meets the required weight for participation.
  - (b) Equipment repairs or adjustments that require the removal of the player's jersey or pants will only be conducted in the presence of a Weigh Master or League Director of the opposing team, or a member of the League Executive Committee.
    - (1) Any change of jersey number during a game must be reported to the opposing Head Coach.
  - (c) Players found with the League required uniform worn for Official Weigh-in being or having been changed, except as indicated as part of this rule, will be removed from the game until equipment meets League requirements, and will then be allowed to return to the game, and his or her member organization will be penalized. (See Rule VIII #12).
  - (d) Any player exceeding his or her team maximum weight requirement for practice must not participate in any contact drills until the weight requirement is met.
  - (e) A player may move between his age team and the next higher team due to weight prior to the Thursday before Labor Day. As of that Thursday, he or she is no longer eligible for participation at a lower level. Players must meet the age requirements of each team per Rule I D 2.
  - (f) The Downriver Junior Football League will not and shall not condone, approve of, or in any way endorse or allow any Agent of any Member Organization to encourage or knowingly allow players to partake in any artificial means of weight control or weight reduction. (I.e., water pills, steam baths, sauna sessions, laxatives, body wraps or apparel intended to induce heavy perspiration, etc.)
    - (1) Running or other exercises specifically for the purpose of weight control during practice will not be allowed without the direct supervision of a coach.
    - (2) Coaches or other agents of any Member Organization who encourage, or knowingly allow, players to participate in artificial methods of weight control or reduction will be severely penalized by the Downriver Junior Football League. Person/persons responsible are immediately removed from the league. The member organization will be fined \$100.

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## F. WAIVERS / RESIDENCY

1. Football players, cheerleaders, or mascots participating with any Member Organization must reside within the territorial boundaries for that Member Organization to participate without benefit of Waiver or Waiver Exemption.
  - (a) All members Organizations with multiple Units must submit distinctive boundaries for each Unit of that Member Organization to the Organization & Membership Committee.
2. Participation of any player, cheerleader, or mascot who does not reside within the territorial boundaries of the Member Organization with which they desire to participate, must have a Waiver or Waiver Exemption on file from the Member Organization in whose territorial boundaries they do reside.
3. Original Waivers and Waiver Exemptions will be valid a player's / cheerleaders entire eligibility, provided that a Renewal Form is filed with the League each year providing the following:
  - (a) Waivers or Waiver Exemptions are for consecutive years.
  - (b) Renewal Forms are filled out completely, and signed by the Member Organization requesting the renewal of a Waiver or Waiver Exemption by:
    - (1) The President of the Member Organization.
    - (2) The Registrar of the Member Organization.
  - (c) A new, Original Waiver or Waiver Exemption must be filled out and filed with the League if:
    - (1) There is a Name Change.
    - (2) There is a Change of Address.
    - (3) There is a Change of Guardianship.
4. Member Organizations are not required to grant Waivers for players, cheerleaders, or mascots except as follows:
  - (a) Any player, cheerleader, or mascot who moves from the territorial boundaries of the Member Organization he or she first played or cheered with, will be granted a Waiver by the Member Organization in whose boundaries his or her new residence is located, through League verification.
  - (b) Any player, cheerleader, or mascot who moves, during the playing season, from the territorial boundaries of the Member Organization he or she may be participating with will be allowed to finish the season without benefit of waiver.
  - (c) Any player, cheerleader, or mascot who may be eligible to participate with more than one Member Organization due to dual-residence, or for reason of school attendance will be allowed to elect to initially participate with either Member Organization.
    - (1) The initially selected Member Organization will become the child's home organization for the duration of his or her eligibility.
    - (2) Verification of dual-residence must be provided and attached to his or her League Registration Form.
    - (3) Verification of school attendance must be provided, and attached to his or her League Registration Form.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (d) Any player, cheerleader, or mascot waived by any Member Organization to allow participation with a different Member Organization, may elect to continue to participate with that Organization for the duration of his or her eligibility.
- (e) Rule I F 4 will also cover any family member who resides with a sibling.
- 5. Waiver Forms or letters will only be valid when prepared and signed for individual players, cheerleaders, or mascots.
  - (a) Waiver forms or letters including the name of more than one player or cheerleader will not be accepted as valid.
- 6. Waiver Forms must be signed and dated as indicated below, and will be subject to the conditions detailed. Those individuals required to sign are:
  - (a) The Parent or Guardian of the child requesting waiver.
  - (b) The President or Vice President of the Member Organization granting the waiver.
  - (c) The President or Vice President of the Member Organization requesting the waiver.
  - (e) The Registrar of the Member Organization requesting the waiver.
  - (f) If the Parent or Legal Guardian, the Registrar, the President, or the Vice President, of either Member Organization granting the Waiver, signs in more than one location, that Waiver Form will be deemed invalid.
- 7. Standard Waiver Forms must be completed and distributed as follows:
  - (a) A copy attached to player, cheerleader, or mascot's League Registration Form.
  - (b) One copy delivered to the President of the Downriver Junior Football League.
- 8. Photostat copies of all Standard Waivers will be attached to the appropriate team rosters, which will be distributed to all Member Organizations as part of the Annual Roster Exchange.
  - (a) Waiver must be obtained before participation in practice or games.
- 9. Organizations with Dual Franchises having Waiver and Waiver Exemptions between their own franchises must come to the Executive Committee for reviewing prior to the player/cheerleader participating in a practice or game.
- 10. A Waiver Denial may be appealed to the Rules and Eligibility committee.

## **G. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

- 1. Each player, cheerleader, or mascot must have a Certificate of Good Health, which provides that these children are physically capable to participate in their desired position.
  - (a) These forms must include the signature of the physician or licensed medical practitioner who performs the physical examination, and be countersigned by the Parent or Legal Guardian of the player, cheerleader, or mascot.
  - (c) These Certificates must be part of, or attached to, the League Registration Form for every player, cheerleader, or mascot, and be available for inspection by League Executive Committee and/or Executive Board Members.
  - (c) All Physicals must be as of April 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

## **H. MEDICAL HISTORY**

- 1. Medical History Forms are distributed to all Member Organizations in the Downriver Junior Football League, and are a required attachment to League Registration Forms.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (a) These forms must be completed and be signed by the Parent or Legal Guardian of each player, cheerleader, or mascot.

## I. GAME PARTICIPATION

1. All players, including any disciplined players, will participate in an Official Weigh-In prior to participation in any game.
  - (a) League Directors or Weigh Masters of Member Organizations are to conduct a Weigh-In of selected players prior to any allowable Scrimmage between teams of Member Organizations to assure that no overweight players are participating in these Contact Drills.
2. The Official Weigh-In will be conducted by a maximum of two (2) Weigh Masters or Agents of the competing teams.
  - (a) Members of the Executive Board of the Downriver Junior Football League will be allowed to witness any Official Weigh-In.
  - (b) Downriver Junior Football League Executive Committee will be allowed to witness any Official Weigh-In.
    - (1) Downriver Junior Football League Executive Committee and/or Executive Board Members will conduct the Official Weigh-In for all post season games.
    - (2) Weigh Masters of the opposing teams in post season games may assist with or witness this Official Weigh-In.
  - (c) Coaches of teams being weighed, regardless of League status, spectators, and/or relatives of players to be weighed, must stay a reasonable distance from the Official Weigh-In Scale. The distance is to be determined by the Weigh Masters or League Board Members present at Official Weigh-In.
    - (1) Individual players will not be allowed at or on the Official Weigh-In Scale prior to Official Weigh-in.
3. Weigh Masters will only be recognized by the Downriver Junior Football League when designated as such by the Member Organization for which they will be providing their services.
  - (a) The designation will be made in the form of a letter to the Downriver Junior Football League, and will include the name, address, and telephone number of the designated person(s).
4. Agents of the competing teams represented at the Official Weigh-In will not be on the Coaching Staff directly responsible for coaching of those players being weighed.
5. All football players will present themselves to the Official Weigh-In Scale as single teams.
  - (a) Individual players will not leave the immediate area of the scale until their individual weights have been determined, and they are deemed eligible or ineligible for play.
    - (1) The individual player may adjourn to a more private area to remove optional clothing if accompanied by a representative of each competing Member Organization.
6. Official Weigh-In Schedules
  - (a) First Game participants will weigh-in as a Team one hour prior to the scheduled start of the first game. Coached, non-contact activities may begin one hour prior to the start of the first scheduled game if no Weigh Master is present.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (b) Second Game participants will weigh-in as a Team during the half-time intermission of the First Game. Coached Team activities will not commence prior to Official Weigh In.
- (c) Third Game participants will weigh-in as a Team during the half-time intermission of the Second Game. Coached Team activities will not commence prior to Official Weigh In.
- (d) Heavy Weight second and third game participants may weigh in immediately following the first or second game weigh-in. Immediately is defined as occurring within one half hour of the official weigh-in.
- (e) For an official weigh-in to occur, rosters must be present at the scale for each squad that has second or third game participants to be weighed.
- (f) The Visiting Team will have the option to weigh-in first.
- (g) Championship Game Official Weigh-In schedules will be as established by the League each year.
- (h) Late Weigh-In
  - (1) First Game players arriving to the field after their Official Weigh-In will be allowed to weigh-in up to four (4) minutes prior to the start of that game. Those arriving later will be weighed in at half time of the first game and play in the second half of that game.
  - (2) Second or Third Game players arriving to the field after their Official Weigh-In will be allowed to weigh-in up to the Four (4) Minute Warning of the second half of the game preceding their game. Those who arrive even later will be allowed to weigh-in at half time of their scheduled game, and to play in that second half.
  - (3) Weigh Masters and League Directors of the teams for which players arrive and weigh-in late are charged with the responsibility of witnessing the late arrivals are stretched and warmed up for no less than five (5) minutes by a Coach or Coaches prior to entering play.
- (i) The Weigh Master of the opposing team shall report on the Weigh Master Report all overweight, injured, absent, disciplined, and players who weigh-in with a number other than that listed for them on their Roster.
  - (1) Weigh Masters of the opposing teams shall exchange rosters prior to each game.
  - (2) If a number change occurs on game day, Weigh Masters may make changes to the rosters, then initial & date the change at that time.
    - a. All changes must be made prior to the team being presented at the scale.
  - (3) The report will be furnished on a League provided form.
  - (4) The report will be furnished no later than Wednesday following the game.
  - (5) If mailed, the envelope shall be postmarked no later than Monday following the game.
  - (6) Weigh Master Forms with Number Infractions must have the roster presented on game attached when submitted to the league.
  - (7) Number infractions that include the roster presented on game day are not appealable.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

## J. Rosters

1. All football team rosters will be considered closed no later than four (4) days prior to the first game date of the season.
  - (a) Extensions to closure dates may be granted at the discretion of the Downriver Junior Football League.
2. All cheerleading team rosters will be considered closed no later than four (4) days prior to the first game date of the season.
  - (a) Cheerleading Coaches may add to their rosters, for reasons of injury, severe discipline, which removes a cheerleader from the roster, or to replace dropouts, anytime prior to the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) game of the season.
    - (1) Cheerleaders age 8 and 9 may be moved to the Junior Varsity level.
    - (2) This may occur at any time during the season.
    - (3) Once moved to the higher level the cheerleader cannot return to the lower level.
  - (b) Cheerleaders age 10 and 11 may be moved to the Varsity level.
    - (1) This may occur at any time during the season.
    - (2) Once moved to the higher level the cheerleader cannot return to the lower level.
3. Changes in player's numbers must be reported to the designated League Executive Committee member and the remaining opponents to be played.
  - (a) Scheduled, future opponents must be informed as soon as possible.
  - (b) Revised rosters will be provided to all opponents prior to Official Weigh-In.
    - (1) Revised Rosters will be prepared and delivered as per the Registrar's Instructions.
    - (2) Memos, letters, notes, or other such reports requiring Member Organizations to make changes in the rosters of others will not be accepted as Revised Rosters.
4. After Roster Exchange transfers of any player or cheerleader from Freshman to Junior Varsity, or from Junior Varsity to Varsity, will be allowed only upon League Approval, and following notification by the Member Organization to transfer the child from one team to a higher level team.
  - (a) Such transfers will be allowed only once per season per child.
  - (b) Such notifications will be reported to the appropriate League Executive Committee member, and approved, prior to the child's participation at the higher level requested.
5. Rosters of all teams will be prepared and delivered to all Member Organizations in accordance with these rules and the current edition of Registrar's Instructions.
  - (a) Rosters will include the uniform number, player's legal names, address, birth date, league age, and weight; and also include copies of any Waivers, which were required for any players, cheerleaders, or mascots listed.
    - (i) Football Rosters will be submitted in Numeric and Birth Date order.
    - (ii) Cheerleading Rosters will be submitted in Alphabetical and Birth Date order.
  - (b) Rosters reprinted in Game Programs will not include any player's telephone numbers or addresses.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (c) Rosters reprinted in Game Programs may include players' nicknames as provided by the child's own Registrar.
- 6. Rosters will be exchanged by all teams at the first Regular League Meeting in September.
  - (a) The President and all Executive Committee members will be provided complete copies of all rosters in numerical and chronological order by birth dates including forms as may be required at said meeting.
- 7. Youths who participate in other football or football cheerleading programs are not eligible to participate in the Downriver Junior Football League with any Member Organization if other participation runs concurrent with their participation in this League.

## **RULE II - PLAYING RULES**

### **A. Game Officials:**

- 1. The Head Official is an Independent Agent of the Downriver Junior Football League. In said role the Head Official is responsible for the supervision and oversight of all officials that work games associated with the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (a) The Head Official will be responsible for scheduling of Game Officials for each scheduled contest.
    - (1) The Head Official is to be contacted immediately if the required Game Officials are not present and accounted for at the start of any game, and to provide replacements for any missing Game Official as soon as possible.
    - (2) Following notification of the Head Official, the Game Officials present, the Head Coaches, and no less than one (1) League Director from each Member Organization to compete in the games and any League Executive Board Member present, shall meet on the field.
      - (a) Games may proceed following unanimous approval of those present at this meeting, but only if there is a minimum of three (3) Game Officials present.
- 2. Six (6) officials will administer all post-season playoff and championship games. Those officials will be Referee, Umpire, Line Judge, Head Linesman, Back Judge and Time Keeper. The duties of each are those stipulated for each position and title.
- 3. Fees incurred by the Downriver Junior Football League to provide officials at regular and post-season games will be shared equally by all Member Organizations of the League, and payable in full prior to the first game of the season.
  - (a) The officials will provide a total cost for the season, including post-season games, prior to the start of the regular season.
- 4. Referee Rating Forms are to be submitted to the Executive Committee. League Directors of any Member Organization may correspond with the League's Head Official at any time. The Executive Committee will calculate Referee Rating scores. The Executive Committee will forward the scores to the League's Head Official.
  - (a) The report will be furnished on a League provided form.
  - (b) The report will be furnished no later than Wednesday following the game.
  - (c) If mailed, the envelope shall be postmarked no later than Monday following the game.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

## B. Practice and Game Balls

1. Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams shall use "Intermediate" balls as follows:
  - (a) Spalding J-5-Y (Leather)
  - (b) Voit C-F-7
  - (c) Rawlings R-5-Y (Leather), RRFY
  - (d) Tachikare SF-4R
  - (e) Wilson TDY (Leather)
  - (f) Nike - Youth
2. Freshman Teams shall use "Junior" balls as follows:
  - (a) Spalding J-5-J (Leather)
  - (b) Voit C-F-6
  - (c) Rawlings Pro-5-Junior (Leather), RF5J
  - (d) Tachikare SF-3R
  - (e) Wilson TDJ (Leather)
  - (f) Nike - Junior
3. Each team may supply their own game ball.

## C. Time Periods / Time-outs / "Running Clock":

1. Game Quarter Times as follows:
  - (a) Four Quarters of Twelve Minutes Each – Freshman, Junior Varsity & Varsity.
  - (b) In the event of a tie score after Four Quarters have been completed, there will be a maximum of two (2) over-time periods played per the MHSAA rules, except there will only be one (1) time-out allowed per Team for the entire over-time periods.
2. Each team will be entitled to four (4) Time-outs per half.
3. There will be an Officials Time-out at approximately four (4) minutes prior to the end of each half of any game. When a touchdown is scored, the four (4) minute warning will be called after the Extra Point attempt is completed.
  - (a) The Referee will advise the coaching staffs of the teams playing of the time remaining.
  - (b) Coaches may meet with their teams during this time-out.
4. Intermission between game halves will be ten (10) minutes, at which time the horn will blow and teams will assemble for a three (3) minute warm-up period before the start of the second half.
5. There shall be no timed intermission between regular season games.
6. Time shall be kept as regulation high school football time, with the exceptions stated below:
  - (a) Quarters may be shortened during any emergency by mutual agreement of the Head Coaches of the opposing teams, or by order of the Referee, provided that this action takes place before the game, and further, that all quarters will be of the same length of time.
  - (b) By mutual agreement between the Head Coaches of the opposing teams, and the Referee, a "Running Clock" may be initiated following a half-time intermission of any game.

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- (c) A "Running Clock" shall be initiated at Half- time when there is a lead of thirty-five (35) points or more by any team.
- (d) If, in the fourth quarter of any game, there is a lead of twenty-four (24) points or more by any team, a "Running Clock" will be initiated immediately.
- (e) Any time a "Running Clock" is initiated, it will remain in effect for the remainder of the game, regardless of weather or other circumstances that may have been considered when the "Running Clock" was initiated except for the following:
  - (1) The Officials have the authority to stop a "Running Clock" for player injury if it is immediately obvious that the injury is severe, or if an injured player is still being attended after one (1) minute have elapsed.
  - (2) The "Running Clock" will stop if the point difference becomes less than 35 points, when initiated before the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter or 24 points when initiated in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, unless mutual agreement between opposing Head Coaches is in effect.
  - (3) Each team with Time Outs remaining will be allowed use of one (1) Time Out wherein the "Running Clock" stops.
  - (4) The Official's Four (4) Minute Warning.
- (f) If there is a "Running Clock" due to a lead of twenty-four (24) points, the leading team may not pass or attempt field goals, neither team may blitz, tackle to tackle, and neither team may put more than six (6) defensive linemen rushing the offense or the quarterback.

## D. FIVE-PLAYER RULE

- 1. A losing coach may specify that five (5) players be removed from the game by the leading team at such time as when there is a point difference of eighteen (18) points or more. If this removal would reduce the winning team to less than thirteen (13) players, the number removed will only be that which will allow thirteen (13) players to remain on the winning team.
  - (a) The coach of the losing team may designate, by jersey number, those players to be removed from the game.
  - (b) The five (5) players designated by the losing coach will only be removed from the game as Offensive or Defensive players, and will be allowed to participate on Offense if pulled from Defense, or allowed to participate on Defense if pulled from Offense.
  - (c) The five (5) players removed from play will be required to sit together on one end of the sideline, outside of the coach's box, with helmets removed during the time they are removed from the game. In inclement weather players may continue to wear their helmets.
  - (d) The losing coach will not be allowed to change his selection of players to be removed from the game. Those players designated will remain the same for the duration of the game.
    - (1) All five (5) players will be allowed to return to the game at such time as the point difference is reduced to seventeen (17) points or less.
  - (e) Any of the five (5) players removed will still be allowed to participate in Special Teams.
    - (1) Special Teams are defined as Kickoff and Kick Return only.
- 2. Rule D.1. and all of its parts do not apply to the Championship Game.

## E. EXTRA POINTS

- 1. There will be one (1) point awarded for a run or pass for Extra Point.

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2. There will be two (2) points awarded for the kicking of Extra Point.

## F. TEAM OPTIONS

1. Any team, which is eighteen (24) points or more behind, may elect to kick or receive after any score or on any free kick during that game. The ball will be spotted on the kicking team's forty (40) yard line.
2. Any team who has a lead of eighteen (24) points or more, and who then attempts an obvious "On Side Kick" shall be penalized.
  - (a) Penalty will be defined at Rule VIII F 17.

## G. GAME FIELD

1. All game fields shall be regulation size at 300 feet by 160 feet.
  - (a) Exception to this rule may only be taken by mutual consent of the Head Coaches of the teams competing.
  - (b) Flags or Pylons will be required at the Goal Lines.
2. Minimum Team Requirements and Team Regulations
  - (a) The Home Team must have medical personnel present, with an EMT certification or higher, at all Regular Season games. The Medical personnel must be identified to the Away Head Coach and Game Officials, prior to the start of each game.
    - (1) Cheerleading and/or Away Teams may elect to provide their own medical personnel at events or games. Those personnel will identify themselves to the Home Team and/or League required medical personnel.
    - (2) A physician or other trained medical personnel will be present at any League sponsored cheerleading events. These people will be provided by the League, but the member organizations retain the option to provide their own if they so desire.
      - (a) Each Member Organization shall have a First Aid Kit on hand at all games and practice sessions.
      - (b) Male and Female Lavatory facilities must be made available by the Home Team for the Visitor Team and their spectators.
        - (1) The Host of any Post Season Game must assume this responsibility in lieu of the Home Team.
    - (3) Emergency protocol will be in effect at all times.

## H. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Members of the Coaching Staffs, or others who share the sideline with them during games, will not be allowed to use telephones, "walkie talkies," or other electronic communication devices during any game.
2. EMTs and/or other medical personnel, will be allowed to have such devices available for their use, but will not be allowed to use those devices unless as part of an obvious emergency situation.

## I. SCOUTING

1. Scouting and/or taping of opponent's practice sessions will not be allowed under any circumstance.
  - (a) Filming and/or taping of scrimmages will be allowed by participating teams only, and those films or tapes will not be distributed to other Member Organizations.

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- (1) Filming and/or taping of opponent's games will be allowed from spectator's area only. Filming and / or taping may also be allowed from or above the press box if granted permission by the home franchise.
- (2) Scouts will identify themselves if or when inquires are made by the team or teams playing in the game being scouted.
- (3) Distribution of films and/or tapes will be allowed.

## J. TRYOUTS AND/OR CUTS

1. There will be no tryouts for football or cheerleading teams by any coach, coaching staff, or any other agent of any member organization.
2. There will be no cuts from any football or cheerleader teams, based on abilities or prejudices
  - (a) Players or cheerleaders may be denied Registration or removed from rosters for reasons of discipline, and must be removed for failure to meet Eligibility requirements.

## K. JEWELRY

1. No jewelry will be worn by football players or cheerleaders during any practice sessions, pre-event warm-up games or other events in which they are participants.
2. Medical Alert bracelets or necklaces are allowed, but these items must be securely attached and 100% covered by medical or athletic tape during the player or cheerleader's participation.

## L. FOOTBALL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. A complete football uniform will include helmet, shoulder pads, hip & tail pads, thigh pads, knee pads, jersey, pants; League approved shoes, socks, mouthpiece, and belt. (Athletic tape may be used as a belt substitution.)
  - (a) League Approved Football Shoes:
    - (1) Football Shoes shall not have any metal screw in cleats. Plastic screw-in cleats are allowed if there is no metal showing.
    - (2) Removable or replacement cleats are allowed if they meet the requirements of one above.
    - (3) Tennis shoes, running shoes, and/or turf shoes are not allowed on natural grass fields.
    - (4) Altering of shoes in any manner will not be allowed.
    - (5) In the event that games are played on an artificial surface, tennis shoes, running shoes, and/or turf shoes may be worn for those games only.
  - (b) Jerseys
    - (1) Jersey backs will be marked with block numerals of not more than ten (10) inches, nor less than six (6) inches.
    - (2) Jersey fronts will be marked with block numerals of not less than four (4) inches.
    - (3) All teams will provide their player with Home and Away jerseys, and the Away jerseys will be white in color.
  - (c) Male football players must wear hard cup protectors, and female football players must wear pelvic supporters and chest protectors.
  - (d) All items of the football uniform will be properly fit to the individual players in consideration of his or her height, weight, and physical characteristics.

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- (e) The Chin Strap Clips shall be made of plastic only.

## M. FOOTBALL UNIFORM OPTIONS

1. Neck rolls, rib protectors, forearm pads, and other optional protective devices will be allowed if they meet the guidelines of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and meet the approval of Officials.
2. Additional clothing may be worn for warmth in cold weather.
3. Any eye shield or visor attached to any player's football helmet must be clear in color.
4. Any and all stickers or patches for helmets or uniforms will only be allowed if approved by the Downriver Junior Football League.
5. Transition Prescription Lenses are acceptable with documentation from the prescribing physician presented to the officials prior to each game.

## N. SHELTER

1. No team shall be allowed to take shelter at a halftime intermission of any game without provision of equal shelter for the opposing team.
  - (a) Sideline shelter and / or heaters may be used at the discretion of each team during game play, if the units are allowed at the host field.
  - (b) Sideline shelter and/or heaters may not be used at half-time unless equally provided for both teams.

## O. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. Football players of Downriver Junior Football League Member Organizations shall participate in games as follows:
  - (a) Each eligible player dressed and ready to play at game time must participate in the game as follows:
    - (1) Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity football players will participate in no less than five (5) plays per half.
    - (2) Any play from scrimmage other than one called for a "Dead Ball Foul" will be considered a play.
    - (3) Any team with thirty-eight (38) players or more, dressed and eligible to play at game time, may reduce the number of required plays per half per player by one (1) play.
    - (4) Any team with twenty-three (23) players or less, dressed and eligible to play at game time, must increase the number of required plays per half per player by two (2) plays.
    - (5) An agent of each team shall be assigned to determine and insure that these player participation rules are enforced and abided by.
2. Each football player must sit out no less than four (4) plays per half.
3. All players dressed and eligible to play at game time must have participation in the game as indicated above, except as follows:
  - (a) Players who are not physically capable of playing.
  - (b) Players who are being disciplined.
    - (1) All players' known to be subject to removal from all or part of a game for reasons of discipline shall be removed from play at the start of the game.

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- (2) Players in attendance, but out of play for reasons of discipline, must be on the sideline during the game, with shoulder pads and helmets removed.

## 4. Player Ejection

- (a) The Head Coach may have the discretion to remove an ejected player from the playing field. An ejected player, which is removed, must be supervised by an adult parent. When a parent is not available the player must be supervised by either another player's parent, League Rep, or an assistant coach.
- (b) The ejected player will be placed on probation for 1 year. Any violation of this probation may result in the players expulsion form the Downriver Jr. Football League.
- (c) The Franchise of the ejected player may be fined up to \$200.
  - (1) A team with a player ejected from the game shall lose 1 sportsmanship point for each player ejected. This sportsmanship point deduction may be appealed.
- (d) In the event the ejected player returns to the playing field:
  - (1) The ejected player will be suspended an additional 2 games.
  - (2) The Head Coach may be placed on 1-year probation.
  - (3) The Franchise may be fined an additional \$200.

## 5. Shot Gun Formation

- (a) The Protect Center Rule will apply to the Shot Gun Formation.
  - (1) Freshman – The quarterback must be at least 3 yards from the ball.
  - (2) JV – The quarterback must be at least 5 yards from the ball.
  - (3) Varsity – The quarterback must be at least 5 yards from the ball.

## **Q. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. Head Coaches for any and all football teams will be responsible for the training and game participation of any and all players listed on the roster for their particular team. The Head Coach shall also be held responsible for the following specific items:
  - (a) Presentation of the team to the scale in full uniform, as specified, and that the uniform items properly fit the individual players.
  - (b) The containment, or restraint of, Assistant Coaches, Junior Coaches, and all others who may report to, or act in concert with, the Coaching Staff, to within the specified coaches box during any game.
  - (c) Knowledge of, the teaching of staff members, and confirming the knowledge of, and confirming of abidance to, the Philosophy and Rules of the Downriver Junior Football League.
- 2. In between plays, Coaches will be allowed to step onto the field to communicate with players. Prior to the start of each play all coaches will return to the "Box" to allow officials free travel along the sideline.
- 3. The team from a game, which a Coach is ejected, will lose one (1) Coaches sportsmanship point for each coach ejected. Any Coach who is ejected for the second time during the same season will cost his team two (2) Coaches sportsmanship points.

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## RULE III - SCHEDULING OF PRACTICE AND GAME RULES

### A. Practice Rules

1. In abidance with the League definition of "Practice", the following specific, pre-approved events will not be considered as practices, and mandatory attendance of these events if forbidden:
  - (a) Team Picture Day
  - (b) Uniform / Equipment Issue Day
  - (c) Events pre-approved by the Executive Board of the Downriver Junior Football League.
2. Opening Practice
  - (a) No formal or informal, supervised practice of conditioning sessions shall be held by any Member Organization prior to the third Monday before Labor Day.
3. Body Contact
  - (a) All players will be required to complete 4 days of conditioning prior to making player-to-player contact. Contact between players and dummies, or players and blocking pads will be permitted
4. Practice Schedules and Locations
  - (a) Football and Cheerleader Practice Schedules and Location information will be provided to the Downriver Junior Football League at the first, regularly scheduled August meeting of the Downriver Junior Football League Board of Directors.
    - (1) Supplementary Practice Schedules with locations will be provided to the President and Executive Committee of the Downriver Junior Football League for any and all teams participating in League sanctioned post-season events.
  - (b) Maps detailing practice locations shall be submitted attached to the Practice Schedules and Supplementary Practice Schedules indicated above.
  - (c) All football teams of Member Organizations will start practice at the same time and location.
    - (1) Two and one half hour practice sessions are allowed prior to Labor Day. After Labor Day, 2 hour time limit.
    - (2) Any individual team may end practice prior to maximum time allowed.
  - (d) All Cheerleading teams of Member Organizations will start practice at the same time and location.
    - (1) Two and one half hour practice sessions are allowed prior to Labor Day. After Labor Day 2 hour time limit.
    - (2) Any individual team may end practice prior to maximum time allowed.
  - (e) Football and Cheerleader Teams will practice on the same days.
  - (f) Any change of practice schedules or supplementary practice schedules, or changes of practice locations, must be reported to the League President prior to enactment of the change.
5. Prohibited Practice
  - (a) Football teams or cheerleader teams will not be allowed to practice more than one (1) time per day.

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- (b) With exception to Item 1 (all) of this Rule, prior to the first scheduled game of the season, there will be no practice allowed one day per week.
  - (c) On Labor Day Weekend, there shall be no practice allowed on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday.
    - (1) The week starts on Tuesday following Labor Day, and on Monday for weeks remaining in the regular and post season.
  - (d) Following the first scheduled game of the season, there will be two (2) days per week with no practice or game.
    - (1) Days off may vary at the discretion of the Member Organizations.
  - (e) There shall be no scrimmages held between teams of the same Member Organization.
  - (f) There shall be no scrimmages held with teams that are not part of any other Member Organization in the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (g) Coaches and other Agents of all Member Organizations are prohibited from any coaching of any players or any cheerleaders at any time other than during scheduled Practice Sessions or Games of the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (h) Member Organizations are prohibited from sponsoring or holding "Camps" or other such events structured for the purpose of teaching football or cheerleading skills.
    - (1) Coaches and/or instructors for practice or games will not be compensated for their services.
6. Coaches may coach in camps only under the following guidelines:
- (a) The camp may not be sponsored by any member organization or by any member of an organization.
  - (b) The camp may only teach the fundamentals of the game or drills.
  - (c) The camp must be open to all children in the DJFL.
  - (d) The name of the coach, date, times and location of the camp must be submitted to the DJFL Executive Committee 30 days in advance for approval.
  - (e) There shall be no participation by DJFL member organizations / personnel after July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
7. The Downriver Junior Football League shall be allowed to sponsor an Annual Football Camp. The football camp will meet the following criteria:
- (a) The camp shall be open to youths between the ages of 8 to 13.
  - (b) The camp shall be no more than 3 days long.
  - (c) The camp shall be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - (d) All proceeds generated by the camp shall be collected by the league and equally distributed to the member organizations.
    - (1) The camp may be hosted by any member organization or held at a neutral (none member site) location.

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8. Practice Termination
  - (a) All practices will terminate at the time indicated on the particular team's Practice Schedule of Supplementary Practice Schedule.
    - (1) Practice Sessions delayed at the start, and those Practice Sessions interrupted for weather or other reason, will terminate at the time indicated on the team's Practice Schedule or Supplementary Practice Schedule.
  - (b) No football or cheerleading teams will be allowed to practice after their last regularly scheduled game of the season except as follows:
    - (1) Specific Football and Cheerleader Teams notified they are eligible to play in post-season football games.
    - (2) Cheerleader Teams notified they are eligible to participate in post-season, league-sanctioned events.
  - (c) The decision to terminate a practice of any Member Unit will be made by the League Directors or President of the Member Organization or by the Vice President in the President's absence.
9. Practice starting the first full week of October of any year.
  - (a) Practices held under artificial lights must end no later than eight (8:00) pm. Participants must have transportation to their home other than walking or riding bicycles.
  - (b) If transportation is not available franchises must have written permission from the parents on file for their child to walk or ride bicycles home.
10. Scrimmage Games
  - (a) A Scrimmage Game is defined as a practice between the football teams of two or more member organizations.
  - (b) Each team will be allowed four (4) practice scrimmages, but only with other teams of Downriver Junior Football League Member Organizations.
  - (c) There shall be no recording of First Downs, Scores, or other determination, which could determine a Winner or Loser of any scrimmage.
  - (d) There shall be no scrimmage between teams of Member Organizations prior to the Tuesday before Labor Day.
  - (e) Scrimmages may be scheduled between Member Organizations, provided that the League is advised of the date, time, and place of the scrimmage, and which Member Organizations are participants.
    - (1) It will be up to each Member Organizations to hold cheerleading practice on the day of the scrimmage. They must notify the DJFL Executive Board within 72 hours, in writing prior to the scrimmage.
  - (f) Any 3 or 4 way scrimmages can be allotted 3-hour time limit.
  - (g) During the Scrimmage the "20 – 10" rule applies. The rule applies specifically to the players participating actively; players waiting to enter the scrimmage are exempt until they begin to participate.

## B. GAME RULES

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. Opening of Season
  - (a) No games may be scheduled before the first Friday following Labor Day.
2. Length of Schedule
  - (i) Eight (8) games shall be scheduled for each Member Organization. Of the eight (8) games, four (4) are to be played at Home, and four (4) are to be played at the fields of other Member Organizations.
  - (b) The first Home game of the season for each Member Organization may be a fund-raising game with a maximum admission fee of \$3.00 per person for those 16 years or older.
  - (c) Player, Cheerleader, and Mascot participants, along with their coaches, will be admitted without charge to any games where admission is charged.
  - (e) League Executive Committee will be admitted without charge to any games where admission is charged.
3. Close of the Season
  - (a) The Regular Season, and Post Season, will close on or before November 15 of any year.
4. Night Games
  - (a) Night Games will not be scheduled on other than Friday or Saturday, and such games will start first game play no later than 4:00 p.m.
5. Makeup Games
  - (a) In the event of makeup games, home teams will have first right of refusal, the away teams has second right of refusal, in the event of non availability the Executive Committee will determine place and time of scheduled event.
  - (b) Makeup games will be excluded from all scheduling rules conflicts.
6. Game Officials will be provided as indicated elsewhere in these rules. Complaints made by Member Organizations in reference to Game Officials should only be done through the Executive Committee and/or League President. No Member Organization will be allowed to contact the Head Official or Game Officials.

## **RULE IV - WEATHER RULES**

### **A. Cancellation of Practice or Game:**

1. The decision to cancel practice will be made by the League Directors or President of the Member Organization, or by the Vice President in the President's absence.
2. The decision to call or cancel a game will be made by mutual agreement of three (3) people including the League Directors of the opposing teams and the Referee of the game. All participants are to report to the field unless otherwise directed by the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (a) The decision to call or cancel shall be final, and the teams will accept the decision in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

### **B. Results of Games called while in progress:**

1. A game called before the halftime intermission shall be considered as no contest, and the game will be rescheduled for a later date.
2. A game called at any time following the end of the second quarter shall be considered as the score stands at the time the game is called.

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## C. Extreme Heat

1. On any practice day, and at the start of practice, it is known that the Heat Index has reached or exceeds eighty (80); practice will be restricted, until the Heat Index drops below eighty (80), as follows:
  - (a) Physical activities shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes.
  - (b) Ten (10) minute Rest and Water Breaks will follow the physical activity periods.
  - (c) This "20 on / 10 off" schedule shall be followed for the duration of the practice session.
2. At any Game when it is known that the Heat Index is eighty (80) or higher the Officials shall call Official Time Out at the 6:00 mark of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters and at the 4:00 mark of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter timeouts are Officials Timeouts for water and no coach to player interaction is allowed.

## D. Lightning

1. Practice sessions or games will be immediately stopped at the first sign of lightning in the area. If a flash of light from lightning is seen, but the actual bolt of lightning is not seen, this is still to be considered as lightning in the area, and the practice or game will be stopped immediately.
  - (a) If there is immediate shelter available at the practice or game field, the teams may adjourn to the shelter area for protection.
  - (b) If teams take shelter during a practice session, they may remain in the shelter for a period of thirty (30) minutes to allow the storm to end or pass. If the storm does end or pass, practice may be resumed for the duration of the regularly scheduled practice session.
    - (1) If lightning is still in the area after taking shelter for a period of thirty (30) minutes, practice shall be terminated.
  - (c) Motor vehicles are considered as shelter when lightning is in the area.
  - (d) When Thunder is heard, all activity will be conducted as if Lightning is present.

## E. Extreme Cold

1. It is the responsibility of the Coaching Staffs to keep their players active and ready to play in extreme cold conditions. If warming devices have not been provided, the players are to be kept active on the sideline, and thereby ready to play in lieu of remaining seated.
2. Under severe weather conditions the Executive Committee may authorize cheerleaders to leave the field. This applies to actual games only.

## RULE V –CHEERLEADING RULES

### A. Cheerleading General Rules

1. The Rules of the Downriver Junior Football League shall be binding on all Member Organizations, and without exceptions.
2. Head Coaches for any and all cheerleading teams will be responsible for the training and game participation of any and all cheerleaders, mascots, Assistant Coaches, and Junior Coaches listed on the roster for their particular team. The Head Coach shall also be held responsible for the following specific items:
  - a. Presentation of the team in uniform as specified by the Head Coach and that the uniforms properly fit.

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- b. The containment or restraint of Assistant Coaches, Junior Coaches, and all others for their particular team, during any DJFL event.
  - c. Knowledge of, the teaching of staff members, and confirming the knowledge of, in abidance to, the Philosophy and Rules of the DJFL.
3. Cheerleaders are subject to the same rules relative to waivers and registration as are the football players. There are no rules relative to weight for cheer leaders.
4. Cheerleading Coaches may add on to their rosters, for reasons of injury and severe discipline, which removes a cheerleader from the roster, or to replace dropouts, anytime prior to the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) game of the season. Levels of participation are as follows:
  - a. Freshmen Cheerleaders shall only be of League ages eight (8) and nine (9) years old.
  - b. Junior Varsity Cheerleaders shall only be of League ages ten (10) and eleven (11). Eight (8) and nine (9) year olds may be moved up to fill JV squads. This may occur at any time during the season. Once moved to the higher level, the cheerleader cannot return to the lower level.
  - c. Varsity Cheerleaders shall only be of League ages twelve (12) or thirteen (13). Eleven (11) and veteran ten (10) year olds may be moved up to fill Varsity squads. This may occur at any time during the season. Once moved to the higher level, the cheerleader cannot return to the lower level.
5. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Junior High Rulebook Insert, as well as the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA) Spirit Rulebook, shall apply to all cheerleading teams of Member Organizations except as hereinafter noted.
6. Cheerleaders Practice Schedules, locations, and maps to locate same, shall be provided to the DJFL as are football schedules, and as indicated in Rule III, A, all.
  - a. Cheerleading Practices must be scheduled for the same date as Football practices, and shall start and end within thirty (30) minutes of the start and end times for the Football practices of the same member organization. (example: 5:30 to 7:00 or 5:00 to 6:30)
    1. Each club will decide number of days to practice with set days being submitted to the President and/or Executive Committee. With a 3 day minimum and a 6 day maximum.
    2. For those organizations participating in playoffs and/or championship game, Cheerleaders must hold a minimum of one (1) day of practice, upon completion of competition, to prepare for said game.
7. Cheerleading practice may be extended beyond the end of the regular playing season if:
  - a. Corresponding football team, or teams, of the member organization are eligible to play in Playoff and/or Championship game.
  - b. Annual cheerleading events scheduled at a date following the eighth (8) week of regular season.
  - c. All cheerleading teams of a member organization will practice at the same time and at the same location except during inclement weather. This will apply after week 6 and a 72 hour notice must be given to two members of the executive committee to have cheerleading squads practice at different locations due to the fact that a location cannot accommodate all three cheer squads.
  - d. All cheerleading teams must have at least one (1) adult Coach with a signed coach's contract at any/all scheduled DJFL events. (Practices; Pre-game warm-ups; Games; Competition)
  - e. DJFL member organization cheerleader team members are prohibited from participating in any other cheerleading program or team during the DJFL season. The season is defined as the first allowable practice through the last scheduled event in which the team member is expected to participate.

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- f. Member organizations that do not have access to inside facilities for practices during inclement weather may have the option to cancel practice after notifying their League Representative.
8. Cheerleaders will only cheer at one event per week, with exceptions to:
  - a. Participation in a rescheduled, makeup football game.
  - b. Participation in DJFL Annual Cheerleading Events.
  - c. Any sanctioned event that does not interfere with game participation.
9. Cheerleaders shall be present, ready to cheer, at any and all football games for the teams of the same level of participation of their member organization.
  - a. All practice/warm-ups will be conducted before the start of any football game they are to participate in. Practice cannot start prior to half time of the preceding game of one (1) hour prior to the first game of the day.
  - b. Cheerleaders will remain on the field, with the teams, for the duration of any football game they are to participate in.
  - c. Failure of cheerleading teams to participate at the field, with their appropriate teams, will result in penalties being levied against their member organization.
  - d. Under severe weather conditions, the Executive Committee may authorize cheerleaders to leave the field. This applies to actual games only.
10. Pending field conditions, stunting, tumbling, gymnastics, or jumps will not be allowed without the expressed approval of the Cheerleading Representative and/or one (1) League Director of each member organization participating in the games.
  - a. The decision to “Allow” must be unanimous among the required quorum.
  - b. The decision to “Allow” or “Not Allow” is intended to stand for all three (3) games of the day.
    1. The decision may be reversed at any time during the day if conditions at the field improve or deteriorate.
11. Cheerleaders benched for reasons of discipline will be seated with the team coach. Disciplined athletes are a part of the team, not spectators, and are not to be treated accordingly.
12. Any Cheerleading Teams of Member Organization may elect to participate in any of the DJFL Annual Events. Each Member Organization Team must have their intentions known by the August Directors meeting.
  - a. Any sanctioned event approved by the DJFL membership, and open to all franchises, is allowed.
13. Any taunting and/or disrespectful behavior exhibited at any DJFL event, by anyone associated with the DJFL will result in fines levied against those member organizations involved.
  - a. Any and all cheerleading Sportsmanship issues will be handled by the Cheer Committee and the Executive Committee.

## **B. Cheerleading Attire**

1. Cheerleader and Mascot Practice/Games/Competition Apparel shall be as follows, NO Exceptions:
  - a. Clothing items with zippers, hoods, snaps, or loose fitting v-neck openings and pockets will not be worn during practice when performing stunts. At no time are hoods allowed while stunting. No stunting allowed while wearing cheer pants or warm-ups at practice or games.
  - b. Hair Control devices can only be ribbons, ponytail holders with no metal, and rubber bands. At no time can bobby pins, metal/plastic clips or barrettes be used in the hair.
    1. When cheering at practice, games, or competition, hair must be pulled back away from the cheerleaders face, as well as, off the shoulders.
  - c. Athletic shoes with arch support will be worn by all cheerleaders at all times they are participating in cheerleading activities.

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- d. Fingernails must not be visible when looking at the palm of the hand. Artificial or Acrylic fingernails shall not be worn at any DJFL event. Nail polish shall not be worn at any DJFL event.
- e. Jewelry of any kind including concealed jewelry is prohibited on all cheerleaders and/or mascots while participating in any DJFL event. At no time shall any cheerleaders face and/or body covered with costume paint, while participating in any DJFL event. No glitter of any kind shall be worn while participating in any DJFL event. Face tattoos are allowed.
2. Jr. Coaches Attire
  - a. No clothing items with zippers, hoods, snaps, or loose fitting v-neck openings and/or pockets will be worn while assisting with stunts.
  - b. Hair must be up and off the face when assisting with stunting. Hair control devices can only be ribbons, ponytail holders with NO metal and rubber bands when assisting with stunts. Pins, metal/plastic clips or barrettes cannot be used in hair while assisting with stunts.
  - c. Jewelry of any kind including concealed jewelry is prohibited during practice. Junior Coaches are allowed to wear jewelry at competition and games provided they are not assisting with any stunts.
  - d. Fingernails must not be visible when looking at the palm of the hand. Artificial or Acrylic fingernails shall not be worn at any DJFL event.
  - e. At no time shall any Jr. Coach's face and/or body be covered with costume paint, grease paint, Halloween color applications or the like. No glitter of any kind shall be worn while participating in any DJFL event. Face tattoos are allowed.
  - f. Shoes must be worn at all DJFL events. Shoes must be closed toe and closed heel. FLIP FLOPS ARE PROHIBITED.
3. Assistant Coaches and/or Head Coaches
  - a. No clothing items with zippers, hoods, snaps, or loose fitting v-neck openings and/or pockets will be worn while assisting with stunts.
  - b. Fingernails must not be visible when looking at the palm of the hand when assisting with stunts. Jewelry of any kind is prohibited when assisting with stunts.
  - c. At no time shall any Asst. Coach/Head Coaches face and/or body be covered with costume paint, grease paint, Halloween color applications of the like. No glitter of any kind shall be worn while participating in any DJFL event. Face tattoos are allowed.
  - d. Shoes must be worn at all DJFL events. Shoes must be closed toe and minimum of sling back heel. FLIP FLOPS ARE PROHIBITED.

## C. Competition

1. A sub-committee comprised of representatives of those Member Organizations participating in the Annual Cheerleading Events will be appointed each year to assist the League Cheerleading Director to:
  - a. Decide on the format of competition.
  - b. Schedule the event, and secure the facility at which the event will be held.
  - c. Secure the services of necessary Judges, announcers, and others as has been required in the past.
  - d. Secure the commitment of volunteers from their respective Member Organizations to perform the various duties necessary for the presentation of the event.
2. Uniformity/Requirements
  - a. Team members shall be identical in appearance within each individual squad.
    1. Uniforms must be Member Organization issued: neat/clean.
    2. Shoes must be white with arch support: neat/clean. (Matching shoes for all team members not mandatory)

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3. When competing, hair ribbons/bows must be identical within each individual squad.
4. Face tattoos are allowed and must be identical on all members of the squad.
3. Competition routines shall consist of the following and may be performed in any combination deemed by the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Junior Coaches within the allotted time for each squad level performing. Gymnastics/stunts may be included at the discretion of the Coaches, providing the proper techniques of form and safety are utilized.
  - a. 2 minute minimum / 3 minute maximum
  - b. Cheers: including crowd response
  - c. Optional Cheer Dance
  - d. Jumps: first one in unison by all squad members facing the same direction.

**D. Point Deductions (General/Safety)**

1. Penalty Deductions for the Cheer Competitions will be in accordance with the following Table:

Safety Judges Penalty Sheet			
Description	# of Events	Multiplier	Total
Mat violation/exit off mat during routine		X 3 pts.	
Violation of Time Max 3 minutes/ Min 2 minutes		6 pts.	
Violation of Spotting Rules		X 10 pts.	
Violation of Stunting Rules		X 15 pts.	
Unsafe Team Member Contact		X 7 pts.	
1 <sup>st</sup> Jump in Unison or facing the same direction		X 8 pts.	
Props left on mat after team has exited		X 8 pts.	
Safety Hazard violation		X 2pts.	
Detached hair control devises, Eye Glasses, shoe, etc.		X 2 pts.	
Unsportsmanlike conduct on the mat physical or verbal		X 25 pts.	
Practice before Competition		X 25 pts.	
Violation of DJFL/MHSAA/Spirit Rule Book		X 5pts.	
		Total Deductions	

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## **E. Volunteers/Duties**

1. Each member organization shall secure the commitment of volunteers from within their organization to perform the various duties appointed necessary for the presentation of the DJFL event.
  - a. Each organization will be responsible for fulfilling and completing said duties for the duration of the event.
  - b. A list of all volunteers shall be provided to the Cheer Committee upon request. If changes must be made, each organization shall notify the Cheer Committee immediately.
  - c. Each volunteer shall sign in upon arrival to complete said duties.
  - d. Volunteers shall be given a nametag and a description of the duties to be performed. At this time any clarifications should be addressed.
  - e. Cheer Directors and/or Franchise Board Members are responsible for any vacated areas.
2. Fines will be levied against Franchises for any positions and/or duties vacated/not completed for the duration of the event.
  - a. Amount of said fines will be determined by the Executive Committee.

## **F. Stunting Rules**

1. A stunt is defined as a member of a group that has both feet off the ground.
2. All partner stunts must use a spotter, in proper position. A cheerleader incorporated into the stunt will spot. At no given time may a Coach, Assistant Coach, and/or Junior Coach assist with stunting on the playing field and/or Competition area. Assistance shall be allowed only on the practice field during scheduled practice times.
3. Spotter(s) must practice the "Touch, Watch, and Away" rule.
  - a. Touching the flyer/top person
  - b. Watching the flyer at all times for safety hazards. An inattentive person is not considered to be a spotter.
  - c. Away in a position to prevent injuries with special emphasis on the protection of the head, neck, and back areas.
  - d. Spotter(s) must maintain hand and eye contact on the flyer at all times.
  - e. A spotter may help control the building or of dismounting from a stunt, but must not provide primary support for the flyer.
4. All partner stunts shall be stationary.
  - a. Stunt must dismount and release before individuals move.
  - b. Bases may adjust feet for safety reasons.
5. Mascots are prohibited from all partner stunts.
  - a. Mascots are restricted to basic cartwheels, ground rollovers, splits and jumps. Mascots are prohibited from any other gymnastic stunts.
6. Height Limitations
  - a. All partner stunts and/or pyramids are limited to two levels high. The weight of the top person (flyer) must be borne by the one or more base(s) that is/are in direct, weight bearing contact with the performing surface.
7. Extensions
  - a. NO flairs are allowed while in an extension
  - b. You must have two (2) back spots, as well as a front spot. The second back spot is the bracer for the main back spot.
    1. Spotters must maintain hand and eye contact on the flyer at all times.
    2. The back spot must support the ankles of the flyer.

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3. The front spot must be directly in front of the flyer with arms extended supporting the bases at the wrist.
8. Flair dismounts can be performed at elevation level only.
9. Legal Dismounts from elevation level
  - a. Twist (no more than 2 rotations)
  - b. Toe Touch
  - c. Pike
  - d. Ball Out
  - e. Sweeping
10. At no time may a flyer flip, pass or dismount over the head of any team member.
11. Illegal Stunts
  - a. Suspended Rolls
  - b. Basket Tosses
  - c. Basket Toss to any flair
  - d. Single base extensions
  - e. Single leg extensions
  - f. Toe touch cradle from extension
  - g. Twist cradle from extension
  - h. No flairs at extension level
  - i. Shoot Through
  - j. Half Pendulum
  - k. Pendulum
  - l. No inverted Stunts
12. Pyramids are allowed
  - a. Flyers may touch while in a stunt; however, they may not support the weight of another flyer/team member.
13. Gymnastics
  - a. At no time may another team member assist a team member with a gymnastic stunt. At no given time may a Coach, Assistant Coach, and/or Junior Coach assist with gymnastics on the playing field and/or Competition area. Assistance shall only be allowed on the practice field during scheduled practice times.
  - b. At no time during the DJFL season shall cheer teams participate in additional gymnastics/tumbling practices that have been organized by a DJFL member.
  - c. Individual may attend gymnastics/tumbling on their own as long as it does not interfere with any DJFL event.

## **RULE VI - GENERAL RULES**

- A. It is the responsibility of the League Directors of each Member Organization to ensure that their Member Organization is educated and aware of these rules, and that the organization is in compliance with these rules. Each Member Organization is responsible for the behavior of their Players, Cheerleaders, Parents, Spectators and all Agents of their Organization before, during and after all DJFL events.**
- B. All Member Organizations are required to provide all members of their Coaching Staffs with copies of the Rules of the Downriver Junior Football League; and further to confirm that the coaches have read and have no less than a basic understanding of the Rules.**
- C. All Member Organizations are required to provide all agents of their organization who are active in the performance of practice sessions and/or games with copies of the Rules of the Downriver**

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**Junior Football League; and further to confirm that the agents have read and have no less than a basic understanding of the Rules.**

- D. Any change of Game site, date, or time after the Official Roster Exchanges requires League Executive Board approval.**
- E. No tailgating will be allowed, unless the Host Franchise gives you prior approval.**
- F. Complaints by parents or others against Member Organizations, coaches, Board Members, or other agents of the organization are to be submitted to the Downriver Junior Football League, and handled, as follows whenever possible:**
1. Complaints by parents or others must be delivered in written format, signed by the complainants, and include name, address, and telephone number.
  2. Complainants who notify the Downriver Junior Football League by means of telephone conversation will only be listened to if those complainants identify themselves, and provide a telephone number and address where they can be reached.
  3. Complainants will be advised that the initial actions taken to resolve their complaint will be the action of the Member Organization, which is subject of their complaint.
  4. The League will contact the President of the Member Organization that is subject of the complaint, and advise the President of the nature of the complaint.
    - (a) The Member Organization will have the first opportunity to resolve the problem or problems, which caused the complaint against the organization.
    - (b) It will be understood that no resolution has been reached until such time as the President of the Member Organization, and the complainant, have advised the League that resolution has been reached.
    - (c) Complaints that cannot be resolved between the Member Organization and the complainant will become subject to appropriate actions by the Downriver Junior Football League.
  5. Any and all cheerleading Sportsmanship issues will be handled by the Cheer Committee and Executive Committee.
- G. The football and cheerleading mascots shall not participate in the physical activities of the football team or the stunting activities performed by the cheerleading teams.**
- H. Post Season Play:**
1. Football teams must meet the minimum standards to be eligible for Post Season Play in the order as follows:
    - (a) Not be on DJFL probation.
    - (b) Obtain the mandated minimum amount of Sportsmanship points.
      - (1) Football teams must be credited with a minimum of seventy (70) Team Sportsmanship Points, and seventy (70) Coaches Sportsmanship Points, to be allowed to participate in post season Playoff Games.
      - (2) Football teams must be credited with a minimum of seventy-nine (79) Team Sportsmanship Points, and seventy-nine (79) Coaches Sportsmanship Points, at the end of post season Playoff Games, to advance to Championship Games.

The Game Officials for each team and coaching staff based upon the following criteria will determine Sportsmanship Points.

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- (1) Attitude towards Officials.
    - (2) Conduct
    - (3) Language
  - (3) The number values below will be used for each category:
    - (1) Unacceptable
    - (2) Satisfactory
    - (3) Good
  - (c) Loss of Sportsmanship Points for Teams or Coaches may be appealed only to the Head Official and two (2) Executive Committee members of the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (d) The Win/Loss Standings are subject to the following Tie Breakers, in descending order as follows:
    - (1) First Tie Breaker - Team Sportsmanship Points
    - (2) Second Tie Breaker - Coaches Sportsmanship Points
    - (3) Third Tie Breaker - Winner of Head to Head Contests if played.
    - (4) Fourth Tie Breaker - Team wins with the addition of the wins of their opponents.
    - (5) Fifth Tie Breaker - The flip of a coin.
4. Playoff Games:
- (a) There will be two (2) predetermined Playoff Game locations per conference.
    - (1) A Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Game will be played at each Playoff Game site.
  - (b) Playoff Games will be played on the first Saturday following the end of the regular season, and the Championship game the following Saturday.
  - (c) Post-season game sites will be chosen alphabetically. No Member Organization will be obligated to host any post-season games. A Member Organization has the right to pass on hosting and will not lose its respective position. No game without having completed three years of membership in the League. No Member Organization will be allowed to host to post-season games in the same season.
  - (d) Playoff Game Hosts will:
    - (1) Incur all expenses including field use, cleanup, etc.
    - (2) Provide all necessary workers for presentation of the games.
    - (3) Retain all receipts from admissions, raffles, and concessions.
    - (4) Fulfill the requirements of a Home Team relative to Toilets, Official Weigh-in Scale, Medical Personnel, and game field.
  - (e) Game Admissions:
    - (1) There will be a maximum \$3.00 charge for entry to the Championship Games. All admission proceeds will go into the Downriver Junior Football League General Fund, and the League will provide ticket sales workers for this event.
    - (2) There will be a maximum \$3.00 charge for entry to the playoff games. All admission proceeds will be retained by the hosting Member Organization, and they will provide their own ticket sales workers.

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- (3) Children age 15 years and younger will be admitted to playoff or championship games at “No Charge”.
- (f) Post Season Game Hosts will not:
  - (1) Assume the responsibility for shelter and/or warming devices for competing teams.
  - (2) DJFL will reimburse for costs up to \$500.00 (Five-Hundred Dollars) for any additional equipment/items required by the DJFL for any Championship Game.
- (g) Teams in the Playoff Games will be the top four (4) teams per conference in each age group as determined by Win/Loss Records, and who have earned no less the minimum Team and Coaches Sportsmanship Points as required above.
  - (1) The first place team in an age group will play the fourth place team in that age group.
  - (2) The second place team in each age group shall play the third place team in that age group.
  - (3) The winners of each game will play each other at the prescribed Championship Game site, providing the minimum Team and Coaching Sportsmanship Point requirements are met.
- (h) The Organization and Membership Committee will appoint team pairs to the appropriate Playoff Game locations. When deemed necessary, the Organization and Membership Committee may alter the playoff seeding.
  - (1) The higher seeded teams will wear their Home Jerseys, and the Lower seeded teams will wear their Away Jerseys.
  - (2) The higher seeded team will sit on the “Home” side. Host teams will not have the option of the “Home” side unless they are the highest seed.
5. Officials Fees for all Post Season Games will be paid by the League, from the funds collected annually for Officials Fees.
6. Six trophies, First and Second places for each level of participation, and one for each team in the Championship Games per conference, will be purchased by the League. The trophies will be presented to the participating teams at the end of each Championship Game.
  - (a) First and Second Place trophies shall be smaller in size than those trophies awarded to the winners of Sportsmanship Trophies, i.e., at least smaller than the First Place Sportsmanship Trophies.
  - (b) The league will provide Patches to participants of the Playoff and Championship Game.
    - (1) Playoff Participants shall receive patches that state the “Year” DJFL NFC (AFC) Playoff Game.
    - (2) Championship game participants shall receive patches that state the “Year” DJFL AFC (NFC) Championship Game.
7. All Cheerleading Competition Trophy Winners will be verbally recognized at half time of the appropriate Championship Game, and the team names listed in the program. First Place Leadership winners may perform at half time, and be re-presented their trophy by a Commissioner or Executive Board Member if they so choose.
8. Team Options for Post Season Play:

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- (a) Member Organizations with more than one team competing at one field on the same day, in post season play, and whose teams are not consistent relative to Home and Away, may negotiate with opponents for Home and Away sides of the field. Agreement must be complete among opponents, and witnessed by the League.
- (b) Member Organizations may provide their own Medical Personnel and/or trainers to tend to their team members.

**I. "In House" discipline of Coaches, Assistant Coaches, or other agents by Member Organizations for infractions of League Rules is encouraged, and any such actions must be no less severe than those penalties as defined by these rules.**

**H. Threats of bodily harm or assaults directed at Officials, agents of the Downriver Junior Football League, or any agents of any Member Organization, made by parents or guardians of children participating as players, cheerleaders, or mascots with any Member Organization, will not be tolerated.**

- 1. If any of those listed are threatened, that person who makes the threat is to be ejected immediately from the event in progress. Police are to be called to eject the person making the threat in instances where compliance is refused.

## **RULE VII - COMMERCIALIZATION & EXPLOITATION**

**A. Exploitation of the Downriver Junior Football League programs, programs of Member Organizations, or a team or individual player or any Member Organization will not be allowed or condoned.**

- 1. Any business who contributes time and/or money in the support of the League, or any Member Organization, or any team, or any individual player, must do so only for reasons, which comply and agree with the Philosophy and Purposes of the Downriver Junior Football League.

**B. Fund Raisers will be allowed for any and all organizations that hold membership in the Downriver Junior Football League.**

- 1. There can be only one (1) mandatory fundraiser for football players, cheerleaders, and mascots, which can affect their eligibility.
  - (a) Any implication by coaches, Board Members, or other agents of Member Organizations, that eligibility will be effected by failure of players, cheerleaders, or mascots to participate in any other fund raiser outside the mandatory fund raiser will result in sanctions against the Member Organization.
- 2. Participation in any fundraisers by football players, cheerleaders, and mascots will be restricted to the boundary limits of the Member Organization.
  - (a) Adults may promote fundraisers outside the boundary limits of the Member Organization, but not at the game or practice locations where other Member Organizations routinely conduct practice or games.

**C. Alcoholic Beverages and/or Illegal Drugs:**

**The consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or the use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated at any practice, or any other event sponsored by, endorsed by, or approved by the Downriver Junior Football League.**

- 1. Any Downriver Junior Football League Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Junior Coach, or other participant of a Member Organization who plays an active roll in the presentation of events indicated above, found to be consuming or using alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at such events,

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will be immediately ejected from the event, and subject to disciplinary action by the Downriver Junior Football League.

2. Parents, grandparents, and/or other fans or observers present at events indicated above, found to be consuming or using alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at such events, will be immediately ejected from the event, and may be banned from further attendance.
  - (a) Violation by a coach of a Member Organization, at or during a listed event, will result in their immediate Indefinite Suspension, and a fine of two hundred (\$200) dollars levied against the Member Organization.
  - (b) Violation by a board member or other agent of a Member Organization, at or during a listed event, will result in the banning of that person from any further participation in the Downriver Junior Football League, and a fine of two hundred (\$200) dollars levied against the Member Organization.
  - (c) Violation by a parent, grandparent, guardian, or other fan in attendance at or during a listed event, will result in the banning of that person from any further attendance at listed events, and/or removal of their child from the team roster.

## **RULE VIII - PENALTIES**

- A. **Member Organizations and their agents failing to comply with the Rules of the Downriver Junior Football League may be fined, placed on probation, and /or suspended at the discretion of the Executive Committee unless otherwise specified and defined in this section.**
  1. Member Organizations and their agents shall be allowed to provide opposing points of views during the investigation process.
  2. Following the investigation only fines may be appealed to the Rules and Eligibility Committee.
  3. Monetary fine amounts may only be reduced to a minimum of \$25.00.
- B. **Fines for infractions of any Rules will be a minimum of twenty-five (\$25) dollars and a maximum of two hundred (\$200) dollars, with exception taken for those specific fines listed later in this section.**
- C. **All alleged League rule infractions, regarding game or practice violations, must be reported to the D.J.F.L President within seventy-two (72) hours of the violation.**
  1. Any Executive Committee member of the League will advise any Executive Board Member or Director of the Member Organization which is charged with a Rule Infraction of the nature and source of the charge within seventy-two (72) hours or less from receipt of the report.
  2. Upon notification from the any Executive Committee member to the violating Member Organization, the League shall levy a fine by the next regularly scheduled league meeting.
    - (a) If there is an on going investigation, the league will be notified by the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- D. **All Member Organizations who are subject to fines must deliver such fines in person, no later than the next League meeting, provided notice is given forty-eight (48) hours prior to said meeting. Before any appeal, the fine must be paid as provided in the By-Laws of the Downriver Junior Football League. Further, failure to pay fines within the time period specified shall result in loss of the right to appeal, and membership privileges.**
  1. Member Organizations who are subject to fines and/or penalties are entitled to an appeal, by the next regular scheduled meeting, following payment of all fines levied.

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2. Member Organizations will have the opportunity to prove to the Rules and Eligibility Committee that the event did not occur such that the penalties may be removed.

**E. Member Organizations who are subject to probation will not be allowed to participate in any post-season games during the term of their probation.**

1. Cheerleading Teams of Member Organizations subject to probation will not be allowed to participate in the Annual Cheerleading Events during the term of their probation.
2. Teams of Member Organizations subject to probation will not be eligible for award of Sportsmanship Trophies.
3. Teams of Member Organizations, which are subject to probation, must finish the year, or years, with not less than 75% of all possible Sportsmanship Points.
  - (a) Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in probation for one (1) additional year, and the Member Organization will be fined in the amount of two hundred (\$200) dollars.

**F. The following penalties are those for infraction of the rules specified, or for the circumstance defined, monetary fine amounts listed in this section will not be reduced.**

1. Any Member Organization who fails to have at least one League Representative present at any Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be fined in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20).
  - (a) Failure to have representation at Regular or Special Meetings of Cheerleader Directors will result in the same penalty.
  - (b) Each missed meeting after the second required Football meeting or second required Cheerleading meeting, will result in a fined in the amount of forty dollars (\$40).
2. Any Coach, Board Member, or other agent of any Member Organization who threatens any Game Official during, or following, any game will be placed on one (1) year probation, and the Member Organization will be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
3. Any Coach, Board Member, or other agent of any Member Organization who is removed from a game by a Game Official shall be subject to a minimum of one (1) year probation from the date of the event. Additionally any Coach ejected from a game will cost his/her team one (1) Coaches sportsmanship point and be withheld from competition for at least the next scheduled day of competition. A second ejection will cost his/her team two (2) Coaches sportsmanship points. The Member Organization that person is affiliated with will be fined a minimum amount of fifty dollars (\$50).
  - (a) A second offense by the same person in the capacity of Coach, Board Member, or Agent, shall result in suspension for one (1) year from the date of the event, and require that person to meet with the Executive Committee, and that the Member Organization that person is affiliated with will be fined a minimum amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
4. Any Coach, Board Member, or other Agent of any Member Organization who strikes a Game Official during or following a game will be banned from further participation with or for any organization who holds membership in the Downriver Junior Football League, and the Member Organization the person is affiliated with will be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
5. Three or more violations of Items 3, 4, or combination of same, by members or agents of a single Member Organization, will result in the Member Organization being placed on probation for the remainder of the year, retroactive to the date of second violation.

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- (a) If the third violation occurs following the fourth game of the Regular Season, probation will also be effective for the following year.
6. Violations of Rule I - Eligibility (All items) shall result in the following:
  - (a) Any victories won by the child's team for games in which he or she participated as ineligible, will be forfeited to the opponents who played in those games.
  - (b) The Team for which the child participated shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the year.
  - (c) Any Member Organization that, in the same year, is discovered to have a second violation of any part of Rule I – Eligibility the member organization will be on probation for the remaining season and the following season.
7. Following the Annual Roster Exchange, the Executive Committee will conduct a review of each Member Organization's rosters. At the first Regular League Meeting following the Roster Exchange, each Member Organization will be notified of any roster infractions. Upon such notification, each Member Organization will be allowed seventy-two (72) hours to make corrections without penalty.
  - (a) All Roster infractions will result in the violating Member Organization being fined in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per infraction up to a maximum of two hundred dollars (\$200) per incident.
8. Any Registrar who fails to meet the responsibilities as detailed in Rule I, C (All items) will be subject to removal from the position at the discretion of the League Board of Directors.
  - (a) Intentional and/or deliberate acts of fraud by any Registrar will result in immediate termination of the Registrar for his or her Member Organization, and that Member Organization shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the year, and the following year.
9. Any Coach or Board Member who is terminated by any Member Organization will not be allowed to coach for, or hold an elected position, in any other Member Organization in the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (a) It is the responsibility of the Member Organizations to report the termination of any Coach or Board Member to the League. This report is to be in letterform, addressed to the League President, and including a brief explanation of the cause of termination.
  - (b) A Coach or Board Member terminated by any Member Organization will only be allowed to once again coach or hold elected position in the League after applying directly to the League Board of Directors, and the granting of approval by the League Board of Directors.
10. Coaches' Sportsmanship Ratings by Officials will impact Team Sportsmanship Ratings only if he or she is rated (1) for his or her Language or Conduct on two (2) or more occasions during the season.
  - (a) The first rating of one (1) will result in a Letter of Notification to the Member Organization from the League, and no (0) points will be deducted from the Team Sportsmanship Ratings.
  - (b) The second rating of one (1) will result in a fine of the Member Organization in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100), and one (1) point will be deducted from the Team Sportsmanship Ratings.
  - (c) A third rating of one (1) will result in a fine of the Member Organization in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200), the deduction of one (1) point from the Team Sportsmanship Ratings, immediate Indefinite Suspension of the Coach and the team.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

11. Violation of Rules relative to players' minimum plays per half "in" or "out" of games shall result in the following penalties:
  - (a) First Violation:
    - (1) Team Head Coach shall be suspended for one (1) week.
    - (2) The Member Organization shall be fined in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25).
  - (b) Second Violation:
    - (1) Team Head Coach shall be suspended for two (2) games, and be placed on probation for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.
    - (2) The Member Organization shall be fined in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50).
  - (c) Violation of rules relative to players and/or minimum plays during Post Season play will result in:
    - (1) The Head Coach will be suspended for the next two games played by his team.
    - (2) The Member Organization shall be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
12. Any football player found changing uniform apparel or equipment items following Official Weigh-In, and not supervised as detailed in Rule I, E, 3, (c), will be immediately removed from play in that day's game, and the Head Coach will be suspended for that day's game.
  - (a) The Member Organization will be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
13. The Head Coach of any team who does not abide by the Weather Rules relative to Extreme Heat will be subject to Suspension for one (1) game immediately following the infraction.
  - (a) The Member Organization will be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
14. Violation of the Rules relative to Running Clock shall result in the following penalties:
  - (a) First Violation: Shall be a live ball fifteen (15) yard penalty.
  - (b) Second Violation: Shall be a live ball fifteen (15) yard penalty, and loss of one (1) Team Sportsmanship Point.
15. If any player removed from the game in accordance with Rule II, D, all items, is returned to the game in violation of the Rules, the following penalties will be imposed:
  - (a) First Violation by an Offensive Team: Shall be a live ball fifteen (15) yard penalty and loss of one (1) down.  
First Violation by a Defensive Team: Shall be a live ball fifteen (15) yard penalty and an automatic first down.
  - (b) Second Violation = Forfeiture of Game to Opponent.
    - (1) Forfeiture under this circumstance will result in deduction of one (1) Coaches Sportsmanship Point.
16. Any player ejected from a game will be withheld from competition for at least the next scheduled day of competition. A second ejection will result in that player being withheld for at least the next two (2) scheduled days of competition. A third ejection in the same season will result in that player to be withheld for at least the next three (3) scheduled days of competition.
  - (a) A team with a player ejected from a game shall lose one (1) sportsmanship point for each player ejected. This sportsmanship point deductions may be appealed.

## 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

17. Any Team with a lead of more than eighteen points who attempts and obvious On Side Kick will be penalized by the awarding of the possession of the ball to the Losing Team on the forty (40) yard line of the Leading Team.
18. Violation of Rule II, 3, regarding players' jersey numbers will be fined in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20) per infraction.
19. Violation of Rule I, H, regarding Electronic Communication Devices, will be fined in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).
20. Coaches Contracts must be completed in their entirety, with no blanks left incomplete or unchecked. Failure to complete contracts:
  - (a) Will result in fines to the Member Organization in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each incomplete contract.
  - (b) Will result in termination of the contract by the League.
21. Failure to participate in Awards Presentations held at the League Championship Games will result in a fine of \$25 per incident, \$75 maximum.
22. There shall be a fine for each failure to have a minimum of three cheerleaders on the sideline for a game per cheerleading squad. This fine shall be progressive in nature. The following Table is an example of how fines will be tallied.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th Offense	6th Offense	7th Offense	8th Offense	Playoff Game	Champ Game	Total Fines
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$1,450
Freshman	\$25	\$50									\$75
JV	\$25										\$25
Varsity	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100							\$250
Total	\$75	\$100	\$75	\$100							\$350

- (a) There shall be no additional penalties if the following conditions are met:
- (b) Franchise must provide evidence of their due diligence to meet the requirements of all three cheer squads.
  - (1) The following are examples of due diligence:
    - (i) Proof of advertisement
    - (ii) Local Newspaper
    - (iii) Local Cable Channel
    - (iv) Flyers
    - (v) Website
    - (vi) Advertisement at all schools in your area. If this is not allowed by the school district, must receive letter from school district indicating such.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (2) Failure to meet the due diligence requirements may result in the following:
  - (i) Entire Program placed on Probation
  - (ii) Referral to O&M to review renewal requirements for the following year.
- (3) At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a franchise lacking cheerleaders may be recommended for review by the Organization and Membership Committee.
23. Infractions or violations of any rule of the DJFL by a football squad will not affect the eligibility, sportsmanship, or postseason status of any cheerleader squad.
24. Infractions or violations of any rule of the DJFL by a cheerleader squad will not affect the eligibility, sportsmanship, or post-season status of any football squad.

## **RULE IX - AWARDS**

**A. Team Awards will be consistent with the Rules of the National Federation of High School Associations and the Rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.**

**B. League Awards:**

1. There shall be no League Awards to any individuals except as described in Rule VI General Rules H. Post Season Play.
2. There shall be no All Star teams.
3. There may be League Awards to Member Organizations relative to Sportsmanship Ratings:
  - (a) Ratings will be submitted weekly by Game Officials to the President of the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (b) Sportsmanship Rating Records will be maintained by the President of the Downriver Junior Football League.
    - (1) Perfect Score for any team during the Regular Season will be nine (9) points per game played for a total of seventy-two (72) points.
    - (2) All Member Organizations whose three (3) teams earn perfect scores will be awarded First Place Overall Sportsmanship Trophies.
    - (3) All Member Organizations who have two (2) teams earn perfect scores will be awarded Second Place Overall Sportsmanship Trophies.
    - (4) All Member Organizations who have one (1) team earn a perfect score will be awarded Third Place Overall Sportsmanship Trophies.
  - (c) Teams who have earned Sportsmanship Trophies will have representation present for the distribution of, and receipt of, said trophies at Championship Games. Representation to be no less than one adult coach, League Director, or other adult member of the respective Member Organizations, accompanied by team members if available.
4. There may be League Awards to Member Organizations relative to Annual Cheerleading Competition:
  - (a) The format of Competition will be as determined by the Member Organization Cheerleader Directors each year prior to competition, and approved by the President of the D.J.F.L.
  - (b) Awards will be made to those teams whose Point Scores are in the top 50% of all scores awarded to competing teams.

# 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

- (1) In the event that an odd number of teams compete, Awards will be made to one half of the participating teams based on the next highest number.
5. There will be no Award Stickers or Patches of any kind placed on, or attached to, any uniforms or issued field attire of any individual football players, cheerleaders, or mascots in the Downriver Junior Football League.
  - (a) Special Patches may be attached to uniforms as provided in the Michigan High School Athletic Association Hand Book, and with special approval of the Downriver Junior Football League.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. To Officials

1. Penalties should be called against teams, players, or coaches only when the imposition of the penalty will give advantage to the team of the violated. It must be kept in mind that the age of the participants, and experience of the coaches, is different from other types of contests.
2. We want Game Officials to feel that they are part of our Player Instruction Staff, both as to the technical and the sportsmanship aspects of the game of football.
3. Game Officials are requested to report incidents and examples of improper coaching to the Head Official and to the Downriver Junior Football League.
4. The Downriver Junior Football League expects professionalism at all times in the conduct and performance of the Game Officials while on the fields or when present at any games.
5. Game Officials are requested to use discretionary judgment in assessing Team Sportsmanship Points for both un-sportsmanship penalties and personal fouls.
6. Game Officials are instructed to display a DJFL issued hat, which displays a number that corresponds with a Roster of Officials submitted by the Head Official. Each Member Organization will receive the Roster of Officials no later than the Annual Roster Exchange Meeting.

### B. To Coaches:

It is understood that all Coaches in the D.J.F.L. are volunteers who, under contract to the League, have agreed in their individual contracts to conform to the Rules of the Downriver Junior Football League and the League Philosophy.

The standards of performance and behavior for our coaches are high, as they must be, to provide the quality of training necessary for the children participating in our programs. The Players and Cheerleaders our Coaches are working with are between the ages of eight and thirteen years. Children of these ages are eager to learn, anxious to please, and expected to be highly impressionable.

Coaches must be constantly aware that they are official representatives of the Member Organization for which they are serving. As members of the community they can expect to be in the presence or line of sight of a child from their member organization at any time or any place. The behavior of coaches anytime or anywhere, both on and off the practice and game fields, may have impact on the children or their member organization.

In addition to teaching the skills required for the playing of football, or cheerleading, our Coaches are charged with the responsibility of teaching their teams, by example and precept, to respect their member organization, the League, and contest officials. Further, the Coaches must be supportive of any adverse decisions by any of these parties by refraining from critical comments in public, in the media, or in the presence of the children.

## **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

The Coaches are also to develop, communicate, and model policies for children's conduct and language at practice, during competition, and at all other appropriate times.

The expectations of the Downriver Junior Football League include the acknowledgment by the coaches that their role's as mentors to the children will be more important than the winning or losing of games. Those who are not willing to make their best efforts to meet these standards would be well advised to step aside for those who would.

While football and cheerleading are the activities for which we gather, these activities are truly the least important of reasons for the existence of the Downriver Junior Football League and our member organizations.

# **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

## **GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS - BOUNDARIES**

### **ALLEN PARK**

The City of Allen Park and Allen Park School Attendees, except for Melvindale-Northern Allen Park School District

### **DEARBORN "BLUE"**

The City of Dearborn East of Southfield Road and Dearborn School Attendees within the same boundaries

### **DEARBORN "SILVER"**

The City of Dearborn West of Southfield Road and Dearborn School Attendees within the same boundaries, excluding all children who live in Dearborn Heights and attend Dearborn Schools

### **DEARBORN HEIGHTS**

The City of Dearborn Heights and Dearborn Heights School Attendees, and the City of Dearborn west of Golfview and north of Cherry Hill

### **GROSSE ILE**

Township of Grosse Ile, Grosse Ile School Attendees, and the City of Trenton - south of Harrison Road

### **HURON RIVER**

Gibraltar School District, the City of Flat Rock, and the Village of South Rockwood and Jefferson School District & Airport School District

### **LINCOLN PARK**

The City of Lincoln Park and Lincoln Park School Attendees

### **MELVINDALE**

The City of Melvindale, Melvindale School Attendees, and Melvindale-Northern Allen Park School District

### **RIVER ROUGE**

The City of River Rouge and River Rouge School Attendees

### **RIVERVIEW**

The City of Riverview, Riverview School District, Riverview school attendees, and City of Trenton - north of Harrison Road

### **ROMULUS**

The City of Romulus and Romulus School Attendees - Inkster Road Boundary

### **SOUTHGATE**

The City of Southgate and Southgate School Attendees

### **TAYLOR "COBRAS"**

Taylor School District and Taylor School Attendees, residing SOUTH of the line starting on Goddard Rd. East to Telegraph Rd., North to Wick Rd., then East to Pelham Rd.

# **2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

## **TAYLOR “MUSTANGS”**

Taylor School District and Taylor School Attendees, residing NORTH of the line starting on Goddard Rd. East to Telegraph Rd., North to Wick Rd., then East to Pelham Rd.

## **WASHTENAW WOLVERINES “BLUE”**

Overview – Ann Arbor Pioneer High School District, Part of Ann Arbor Skyline School District, and West Washtenaw County

Actual High School Boundaries – Children who live in Ann Arbor and attending the following Middle Schools (Ann Arbor Open, Forsythe, Slauson, Tappan), Saline High, Dexter, Chelsea High School, and other West Washtenaw County high school districts.

## **WASHTENAW WOLVERINES “MAIZE”**

Overview - Ann Arbor Huron School District, Part of Ann Arbor Skyline School District, and East Washtenaw County

Actual High School Boundaries - Children who live in Ann Arbor and attended the following Middle Schools (Clague, Scarlett), Ypsilanti High, Lincoln, and Willow Run High School, and other East Washtenaw County high school districts.

## **WOODHAVEN**

The City of Woodhaven, Brownstown Twp., Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, and Attendees, Woodhaven residents attending school in Gibraltar School District, and The City Trenton - west of Franklin Drain and south of Harrison Road

## **WYANDOTTE**

The City of Wyandotte and Wyandotte School Attendees

## **BOUNDARY EXEMPTIONS**

Member Organizations may register players from a neighboring community when that community is not in the Boundary Limitations of another Member Organization.

## 2010 DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

<b>TEAM COLORS</b>				
<b>Team</b>	<b>Helmets</b>	<b>Home Jerseys</b>	<b>Pants</b>	<b>Away Jersey Numerals</b>
Allen Park "Bulldogs" - F	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	White	White/Gold
Allen Park "Bulldogs" - JV	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	White/Gold
Allen Park "Bulldogs" - V	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	Gold	White/Gold
Dearborn Lions "Blue"	Silver	Blue	Blue	White / Blue
Dearborn Lions "Silver"	Silver	Blue	Blue	White / Blue
Dearborn Heights "Raiders"	Gray	Black	Black	White
Grosse Ile "Junior Devils"	Silver	Red	Gray	White
Huron River "Yellow Jackets"	Gold	Yellow	Black	White
Lincoln Park "Rails"	Blue	Blue	Blue	White
Melvindale "Cardinals"	Black	Red	Black	White
River Rouge "Panthers"	White	Maroon	Maroon	White /
Riverview "Pirates"	Gold	Maroon	Gold	White/Gold
Romulus "Flyers"	Red	Red	Red	Red
Southgate "Vikings"	Burgundy	Burgundy	Burgundy/White	White
Taylor "Cobras"	Silver	Blue	Silver	White / Blue
Taylor "Mustangs"	Silver	Black	Silver	White / Black
Washtenaw Wolverines "Blue"	Blue & Maize	Blue	Maize	White / Blue
Washtenaw Wolverines "Maize"	Blue & Maize	Blue	Maize	White / Blue
Woodhaven "Warriors"	Purple	Purple	Purple	White
Wyandotte "Indians"	Blue & Maize	Blue	Blue	White / Blue
<b>The Away Jerseys of all teams will be White</b>				

# NOTES

## ARTICLE I - TITLE

The name by which this Association shall be known is: DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## ARTICLE II- PURPOSES

- A. This Association is designed primarily for the improvement and development of the capabilities of individuals: to encourage certain types of sports and athletic endeavors; to promote the physical, mental, and moral development and well-being of youths 8 through 13 years of age without regard to race, creed, color or religion, by providing the means through which the individual youth shall receive education and instruction in sports programs; and the purpose of setting up such a program will be to develop a sense of fair play, honest and fair competition and true sportsmanship, with the end result that there will be a lessening of juvenile delinquency and juvenile problems within the prescribed area; further, that unsafe participation in the game of football will be eliminated through the establishment of competent and trained coaching staffs, adequate practice and game facilities, approved protective equipment, safe transportation to and from game activities; further, that the protection of the emotional health and welfare of each youth involved, as well as the physical health and welfare, shall be attained by emphasis upon equal competitive standard scientifically determined, rather than upon the winning of games, or any other adult competitive standard.
- B.
1. To assist members with publicity in fund raising promotions upon their request.
  2. To raise funds to promote the purposes as stated in this Article II, A.
  3. To establish uniform playing rules for all members.
  4. To schedule participation of members on an equitable basis.
  5. To promote the growth of this type of activity among more and more youths.
  6. To provide officials for all games.
  7. To perform such other actions as are necessary or required to promote the purposes stated above and feasible to be performed by the members as individuals.

## ARTICLE III - OFFICES

The principal and registered office shall be located at the office of the Executive Secretary.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- A. The membership of the Downriver Junior Football League shall consist of organizations duly certified by the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission as a Non-Profit Corporation, who have filed Articles of Incorporation with the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission and who are in good standing with the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission.
1. Articles of Incorporation for the individual members shall include purposes substantially in accord with the purposes of the Downriver Junior Football League.
- B. Minimum standards of organization of the individual's member's corporation shall be as follows:
1. Members shall cause to be drawn By-Laws for their corporation which will provide for:
    - a. Membership in any appropriate manner, and such membership may be restricted in any desirable manner whether by dues or otherwise.
    - b. An annual meeting of members, upon written or published notice; at least one purpose of such meeting shall be the election of a Board of Directors and/or Officers.

## NOTES

- c. A procedure for nominating a slate of director nominees and/or officers, which slate may be from the existing board members and/or officers who are members in good standing of the organization, and which procedure must permit for additional nominations.
- d. The compilation and maintenance of a complete list of the members entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, together with their address, which lists shall be available at the office of the secretary of that organization for examination by the membership during the regular hours of business.
- e. An Agenda to be followed at the Annual Meeting, to wit:
  - (1) Roll Call - eligibility to be checked.
  - (2) Proof of notice.
  - (3) Reading of minutes of the last meeting.
  - (4) Reports from:
    - President
    - Treasurer
    - Committee Chairmen (if required)
    - League Directors
  - (5) Election of directors and/or officers.
  - (6) Other business.
  - (7) Adjournment
- f. Authorizing the Board to manage the property and business of the organization. The composition of this board is to be determined by their constitution and by-laws.
- g. Meetings of the Board to be held, at least quarterly, the first meeting of which shall be within ninety (90) days after their election; and, further provided, at least one purpose of said first meeting to be the election of officers, unless members' by-laws are set up to elect officers by the membership of said organization; and further provided, that a quorum for the transaction of business shall be the presence, in person, of a majority of the Board of Directors.
- h. Officers having the following titles and duties:
  - (1) President - Chief Executive
  - (2) Treasurer - Custodian of all funds, which may be disbursed only as authorized by the Board.
  - (3) Secretary - Recorder of the minutes of all meetings of the Board and responsible for the giving of all notices required by Statue, By-Law, or resolution.
  - (4) Two League Directors per each complete Unit to represent the Member Organization at all League Meetings.
  - (5) Such other officers as the Board may deem necessary to carry out the business of the organization, which Officers may have duties prescribed by the Board.
- i. No director, officer or member shall receive monetary remuneration for services rendered to the organization.

## NOTES

- j. The transfer of assets to a similar non-profit corporation upon dissolution of the member organization.
  - k. The effectuation of amendments to the By-Laws, but no such amendment shall be inconsistent with the foregoing.
2. The filing of a true copy of the By-Laws for the organization with the Secretary of the Downriver Junior Football League.
3. Any of the above requirements may be waived for organizations, which were originally established for purposes other than the sponsorship of Junior Football if they should desire to sponsor Junior Football upon:
- a. The investigation and recommendation of the Organization and Membership Committee.
  - b. The approval of the Board of Directors of the Downriver Junior Football League.
4. Member Organization Background Screen Program
- a. DJFL requires each member organization to implement a background screening program focusing on all adult coaches and other adult members having frequent contact with participating children to ensure a safe and secure environment for members.
  - b. Screening shall cover criminal background, sex offender registry and identity verification.
    - (1) This screening process shall be administered by a board appointed screening administrator.
  - c. Access to information from this screening process should be limited to the administrator and one other delegate preferably an officer of the member organization. Confidentiality and privacy shall always be maintained.
5. Member Background Information Privacy, Security and Confidentiality
- a. Member organization shall take a number of steps to ensure that member information is adequately safeguarded. These steps include the following:
    - (1) Implement a number of physical and electronic security features to prevent unauthorized access to member information.
    - (2) Limit member access to member information to the appointed screening administrator.
    - (3) Conduct periodic reviews of member organization's processes and computer systems, including security features.
    - (4) Members shall be required to acknowledge their responsibility to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of member information.
- C. Membership in the League shall be obtained by the granting of a Franchise, upon submission of application to and approval by the Board of the League, the Board having been satisfied that the applicant has met the requirements as set forth in Section A and B of this Article, as well as any other requirements as may be established by the Board in their Rules and Regulations.
- D. A Franchise shall be for one year and shall be renewed, provided that the purposes of the League have been met in the past by the renewing organization, upon the recommendation of the Organization and Membership Committee and payment of such annual franchise fee as the Board shall establish for each year; and further, provided that such franchise fee shall be payable on or before the January meeting and each year thereafter; further that an operational fee to be established by the Board from year to year shall

## NOTES

be payable on or before December 1 of each year; and, further, that no new franchise will be granted, and no existing franchise shall be renewed, unless the sponsoring organization presents a complete Unit; said unit defined as consisting of three football and three cheerleader teams to perform as per League Rules including varsity, junior varsity, and freshman teams of each type. Minimum levels of participation to be as established by the Playing Rules & Eligibility Committee with the acceptance of the League Board of Directors as part of the Rules.

- E. Failure to pay Franchise Fees, Operational Fees, Official's Fees, or Insurance Fees; Any member who shall be ten (10) days or more in default in the payment of these fees shall, by action of the Executive Committee, be immediately suspended from all privileges of membership; and if, after written notice from the Treasurer of such default, the default be not cured within a period of twenty (20) days, the Board of Directors shall terminate the franchise of the defaulting organization.
- F. Except as provided in Section E, above, a member may be expelled or have its application for franchise renewal denied ONLY after a full investigation and report on the situation by the Organization and Membership Committee to the Board of Directors and subsequently thereto upon a affirmative vote of 2/3 the Directors present at any regular or special meeting of the Board; provided that fifteen (15) days written notice shall be given each member of the Board that such expulsion or denial of franchise is to be on the agenda of such meeting.
- G. Each member organization shall earnestly and in good conscience comply with the By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of the League and shall have the responsibility of financing its own team unit or units. No member shall be subsidized or receive financial assistance from the League, and therefore shall have the responsibility of financing its own Unit or Units.
- H. Whenever it is deemed practicable, the League may assign members to a conference, which shall be established in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, as the Board shall promulgate.

## ARTICLE V - DIRECTORS

- A. The government, control, regulation, and management of this League shall be vested in a Board of Directors.
- B. Each member organization shall be entitled to two (2) Directors and each Director shall have one (1) vote on the Board, said Directors to be elected by the respective member organizations from among their directors and officers and their names, addresses and telephone numbers and e-mail address will be submitted to the Secretary of the League at first meeting in January of each year, to serve as Directors for the ensuing year; and further provided, that absentee Directors may delegate their vote to other members, directors or officers of their organization. No director shall be able to cast more than one (1) vote.
  - (1) Proxies will not be allowed.
- C. The Board of Directors shall establish the amount of the annual franchise and operational fees to be paid by the member organization for the renewal of the establishment of a franchise as prescribed in Article IV, Section
- D. The Board shall promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems necessary for eligibility of players, scheduling of teams or conferences, uniformity of playing rules, requirements for membership and such related matters pertaining to the successful operation of the Downriver Junior Football League, providing that no such rules and regulations shall be repealed or amended after July 1 of any year.
  - (1) All rules and regulations changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority.

## NOTES

- E. The Board shall approve and cause to be published whatever literature or other materials may be required to promote the growth of the Leagues program and for the information and guidance of the membership, participants or interested parties.
- F. The Board shall hold an Annual Meeting in the third week in January of each year for the following purposes; to elect from it's qualified current or past membership a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and to consider any business deemed properly presented and in order, said annual meeting to be held in two parts: Part one, with officers and directors of the past year for the purpose of completing the business of the past year; Part two, with the directors of the forthcoming year. With the President of the past year chairing the meeting until new officers are elected. The Board shall hold at least one regular meeting during the months of March, April, June, September, October and November in each year, and further, special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of one-fourth of the members of the Board of Directors. No individual will be allowed to be nominated, elected, or hold the office of League President without having served no less than one year as a League Director.
- G. All bills and invoices must be submitted by the Treasurer to the Board for approval before payment.
- H. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors present in person shall constitute a quorum at any meeting and a majority vote of the Directors present in person shall govern, except where otherwise provided for herein.
- I. It is the duty and responsibility of all the representatives of the Downriver Junior Football League to insure that all rules of the Downriver Junior Football League are followed by the coaches and their franchises.

### ARTICLE VI- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. There will be seven members of the Executive Committee for the Downriver Junior Football League. This committee will govern both the football and cheerleading.
- B. The committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, a member of Organization and Membership, and two members elected from the general membership.
  - 1. The current or past members from the general membership and Organization and Membership shall be elected by the Board of Directors from a list of candidates submitted by the Organization and Membership Committee for this purpose.
- C. Duties of the Executive Committee:
  - 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint the League Head Official with the approval of the Board of Directors, establish and define the duties and responsibilities of such appointees, and shall have complete control over the activities of such appointees.
  - 2. The Executive Committee shall establish and identify required procedures regarding the violation of rules and regulations by any member organization. The procedures will include: submission of complaints; actions and penalties imposed; and methods of reporting to the concerned franchises and the Board of Directors.
  - 3. The Executive Committee shall act on violations of League Rules in accordance with those directives provided in Rule VIII. The Executive Committee may act without written complaint. The Executive Committee shall interpret all playing and eligibility rules during the season in cases of difference of opinion between members. Appeal of the Executive Committee decision regarding

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penalties or Rule VIII may be taken to Playing Rules and Eligibility. All appeals will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority for approval.

4. Penalties will be set in accordance with Rule VIII. This committee has the ability to set penalties based on each individual situation.
5. Members of this committee who are coaches will not be able to attend practices of franchises that are on their schedules or after week 5 appear to be playoff opponents.

## ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Downriver Junior Football League shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may elect, to be elected in compliance with the General Corporation Laws of the State at Michigan.
- B. The officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Board in accordance with procedures established by the Board, and shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors have been elected. Any eligible officer may be re-elected.
- C. If a vacancy occurs in any office, the Board shall fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting of the Board, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.
- D. The President shall have the following powers and duties:
  1. To call all regular and special meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee and to preside over all such meetings.
  2. To be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees.
  3. To appoint the necessary members to fill out the following committees with same to constitute the Standing Committees of this corporation, such members shall be either current or past officers or directors.
    - a. Organization and Membership Committee (current or past officers or directors)
    - b. Playing Rules and Eligibility Committee (current officers or directors only)
  4. To appoint the Chairman and members of all special committees, members of which need not be members of the Board.
  5. To appoint an individual to fill the position of Executive Secretary, which appointment shall become effective only after ratification and approval by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors present in person or by written proxy at any regular meeting whereat the President makes such appointment. The President may, upon affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors present at any meeting called for the purpose, remove the Executive Secretary from office, and the Board of Directors shall have the right, by the same vote, to require that the President remove the Executive Secretary from office.
  6. The President may cast a vote only in the case of tie.
- E. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.
- F. The Secretary, or whoever the Board may appoint, shall record and maintain minutes of all Board meetings, regular and special; shall receive and answer all official League correspondence; shall prepare and submit all annual reports; preserve and maintain the records and correspondence of the League; and shall perform all other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors to his office.

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- G. The Treasurer, or whoever the Board may appoint, shall receive and deposit in an accredited bank all funds accruing to the League, shall maintain and preserve accurate and adequate financial records of receipts and expenditures, shall render current financial statements at each regular meeting of the Board; shall pay promptly all bills against the League in accordance with Article V, Section 0; shall prepare the Annual Financial Statement for inclusion in the report of the Secretary to the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission and shall forward same to the Secretary in ample time far such inclusion.
- H. The officers of this Association shall constitute the Executive Board along with the Chairman of all standing committees. The president from the previous year shall be an ex-officio member of the Board for a period of one year.

### ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- A. There shall be established a position of Executive Secretary for the Downriver Junior Football League.
- B. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the President as provided in Article VII, D 5, above, from among any interested parties, except the incumbent President.
- C. The Executive Secretary's term of office shall be for one (1) year. Any Executive Secretary may be re-appointed for any number of terms of office.
- D. Duties of the Executive Secretary:
  - 1. The Executive Secretary shall act as advisor to the President and assist him, the other officers and Directors, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their offices.
  - 2. The Executive Secretary may attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors and all meetings of the Executive Committee. At all such meetings, the Executive Secretary may enter into discussions and shall advise and make recommendations to the Directors, but shall have no right of vote.
  - 3. The Executive Secretary shall act as coordinator between the League and its member organizations and be responsible for obtaining close cooperation in their mutual activities.
    - a. She/he shall be responsible for efficient communication between the League and its members.
    - b. She/he shall be required to attend a meeting of as many member organizations as the President deems necessary.
    - c. She/he shall make an annual report on the status of memberships to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.
  - 4. The Executive Secretary shall be jointly responsible with the Organization and Membership Committee for advice to groups desiring to become members of the League and for assistance to such organizations, which become new members, so that they may readily understand and fulfill the purpose and philosophy of the League.
  - 5. The Executive Secretary shall publish and distribute and Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and he shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of all other data, information and paperwork, as required by the Board of Directors or the President, and, generally, for all routine correspondence.
  - 6. The Executive Secretary shall perform such other duties as requested by the Board of Directors or the President.

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- E. The Executive Secretary shall be paid monthly for services rendered to the League; and, in addition, shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred on League business, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the President.

### ARTICLE IX — COMMITTEES

- A. The Chairmen of the two standing committees shall be appointed by the President at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.
- B. The Playing Rules and Eligibility Committee shall consist of one League Director per Unit from each Member Organization, plus a Committee Chair Person, and a cheerleading representative to vote on cheerleading issues only.
- C. Duties of the Standing Committees:
  - 1. ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
    - a. To investigate and determine if an applicant for a franchise has complied with the membership requirements established by the Board and make its recommendation for acceptance or denial to the Board for action.
    - b. To investigate and determine the compliance with regulations for renewal or expulsion of a franchise already in the League, and make its recommendation for renewal or expulsion to the Board for action, securing from each franchise at the January meeting: (1) Request for Renewal of Franchise, (2) Minutes of Annual Meeting Showing Election of Officers, (3) A true copy of the Articles of Incorporation, (4) A copy of the most current by-laws, (5) Franchise fee (Franchises will be notified of amount), (6) Previous years Non-Profit Corporation information update. Also one (1) director from the previous year and one (1) director for the current year along with the names, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for the current League Directors and Alternates. Failure to do so will result in the loss of franchise rights until requirements of Article IX-C-1-b are met.
    - c. It shall be the duty of this committee to consider all proposed amendments to these By-Laws or Rules and Regulations regarding membership, or organization; to present said proposals in proper form to the Board for action along with the committee's recommendation of approval or disapproval.
    - d. This committee shall aid in the organization of new franchises if so requested by the applicant.
    - e. It shall be the duty of this committee to establish the geographical franchise limitations, as it deems practical and to submit such proposals to the Board of Directors by the June meeting for approval.
    - f. It shall be the duty of this Committee to interview and recommend the three (3) candidates to be elected by the Board of Directors to the Executive Committee.
  - 2. PLAYING RULES AND ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE
    - a. All rules and regulations pertaining to the playing of the games and environment shall be formulated by this committee and submitted to the Board for approval.
    - b. All rules and regulations pertaining to the eligibility for players shall be formulated by this committee and submitted to the Board for approval.

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- c. The Playing Rules & Eligibility Committee shall establish criteria for the selection of coaches by member organizations. Said criteria to be designed to achieve the highest possible coaching standards for the youths involved in the program. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the adherence to such standards.
- d. The Playing Rules & Eligibility Committee shall establish and supply to the officials and the Board of Directors the criteria for sportsmanship ratings. Only the league coaches and players will be judged for sportsmanship.
- e. The Playing Rules & Eligibility Committee shall establish a format for the scheduling of regular season games by the regular scheduled meeting of the Downriver Junior Football League Board of Directors during the month of April each year. In 1999 the format will be established no later than the May meeting.

### 3. CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE:

- a. This Committee to be comprised of one Cheerleading Director, or recognized alternate, from each Unit participating in the Downriver Junior Football League.
- b. The Cheerleading Committee will be chaired by a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary elected by the Cheerleading Committee after the DJFL annual meeting.

#### Duties of the Cheer Committee Chairperson:

- (1) Conduct any and all scheduled and special meetings held by the DJFL Cheer Committee.
- (2) Prepare and distribute an agenda for all such meetings.
- (3) Attend the scheduled monthly DJFL League meetings to give a report on Cheer Committee activities to the league Executive Board and membership. This is to include submitting a budget for the annual Competition/Cheer Fest.
- (4) Conduct the Cheer Committee in the drafting of any and all revisions, amendments and submitting proposals in regards to the League cheer rules and by-laws.
- (5) Attend one (1) Rules & Eligibility Committee meeting, to be designated by said committee, to submit and explain any and all proposals drafted by the Cheer Committee.
- (6) To conduct the Cheer Committee in drafting and establishing criteria regarding the selection of cheerleading coaches. Such criteria are to comply with the DJFL coaching standards.
- (7) Appoint one (1) representative from each event committee as stated in Rule V P to record the activities of all meetings held by their respective committee.
  - a) Such records are to be incorporated with the records from that months regularly schedule Cheer Committee meeting.
- (8) Forward any and all necessary materials needed by the Cheer Committee Co-Chairperson and Cheer Committee Secretary to fulfill their duties and for the operation of said Committee.

#### Duties of the Cheer Committee Co-Chairperson:

- (1) Shall perform the duties of the Cheer Committee Chairperson in their absence.

#### Duties of the Cheer Committee Secretary:

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- (1) Publish and distribute minutes of any and all meetings held by the DJFL Cheer Committee, to the Cheer Committee.
    - a) A hard copy of said minutes is to be sent to the officers on the DJFL Executive Board Members.
  - (2) Publish and distribute any and all Rule & By-laws Proposals as well as any accepted Rule & By-law changes.
  - c. This Committee to meet on a schedule similar to that of the Board of Directors, and participation in this committee by each Unit is mandatory.
    - (1) There will be no regularly scheduled meetings of the Cheerleading Committee during the month of July.
  - d. Rules and regulations pertaining to participation of cheerleaders in games and practices will be formulated by this committee.
  - e. Rules and regulations pertaining to the eligibility for participation of children in cheerleading teams will be drafted by this committee.
    - (1) There shall be absolutely no conflict between any DJFL eligibility rules for football players or cheerleaders relative to age of participants, residency requirements, waivers, waiver exemptions, registration requirements, or similar issues.
  - f. Rules, regulations, schedule, criteria, management and performance of the DJFL Annual Cheerleading Competition or Cheer fest, shall be a responsibility of this committee.
    - (1) Any and all receipts generated by the presentation of this event will be used to pay costs directly incurred to conduct same, and also including the cost of participation pins and award trophies purchased. Any receipts in excess of these costs will become part of the General Fund of the DJFL.
  - g. Criteria regarding the selection of Cheerleading Coaches shall be drafted and established by this committee. Said criteria to set the highest possible coaching standards for participation in the DJFL
  - h. Cheerleading Rule additions and/or changes drafted by the Cheerleading Committee will be presented by the Cheerleading Committee Chairperson to the Rules & Eligibility Committee. Delivered drafts will be reviewed at this meeting. Those delivered drafts approved by a majority of those present at the combined meeting will be delivered to the Board of Directors for approval subject to the same criteria as are any Rules and rule changes.
- D. Duties of the Executive Board:
1. To meet between Board meetings, if necessary, for the following purposes:
    - a. To prepare the agenda of the next Board meeting.
    - b. To execute the business of the League not specifically requiring action by the Board of Directors.
  2. To convene on matters considered by the President to be of an emergency nature on at least twenty-four (24) hours notice.
  3. To interpret and act on the By-Laws in cases of emergency. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be considered to consist of the members in attendance at a properly convened meeting.

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- E. As ex-officio members of all committees, the President of this League shall have one (1) vote in case of a tie at all meetings of committees, which he attends.

### **ARTICLE X - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year for this Association shall be from January 1 to December 31.

### **ARTICLE XI- EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

- A. Checks, Drafts, Etc. - All checks, drafts and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the League by the Treasurer and shall be countersigned by such other officer or agent as the Board shall from time to time designate for that purpose.
- B. Contracts, Conveyances, Etc. - When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without the specification of executing officers, the President, and Secretary or Treasurer may execute the same in the name of the League. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to execute any instrument in behalf of the League.

### **ARTICLE XII -AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended, altered, changed, added to or repealed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Directors present in person at any stipulated meeting, providing that written notice of such proposed changes shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member of the Board of Directors at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed change or changes shall be submitted to a vote.

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