



**BRITISH
AMERICAN FOOTBALL
LEAGUE**

LEAGUE REGULATIONS

APRIL 2007

BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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SUMMARY TABLE OF MAIN CHANGES FOR 2007

Section	Summary	Comments
3.3.c	Reporting of game scores during the game at end of quarter	Reflects practice introduced in 2006
3.3.d	Date for games played	Editorial change to reflect games being scheduled on Saturday routinely
3.15	Official Ball	Changed to the BAFA Wilson F1100. F1000 to remain acceptable for 2007.
3.17.c	Provision of ball person on away sideline to be made by away team	Agreed at 2006 AGM for 2006 and subsequent seasons
3.22.a-b	Identification check	Editorial
3.26	Nationality of players	Typographical
3.27	Statistics	As discussed at 2006 AGM
3.29	Video recording of official games	Clarification that recording of games is permitted for members' coaching purposes only
4.1.b	Registration preamble	Editorial
4.1.c	Registration forms	As these are now a BAFA rather than League document they should not be included as a BAFL regulation
4.4.b	Identification	Editorial
4.4.d	Game rosters	Error on game rosters can be corrected on game day only if they have been made by the League office and must be done 2 hours before kickoff. Recognises existing practice.
4.5.b.iii	Cut off date	Typographical
4.6.a-b	Ineligible players	Team or person not responsible for League Office errors
4.7.a	Transfer Forms	Not required out of playing season where transferee has no debts
4.7.d	Transfer consent by e-mail	Formalises current policy
5.1.c, g	Scheduling of games on Saturdays	Members admitted from 2007 must be able to host and attend games on Saturdays as well as Sundays
6.1	Annual application	Allow deadline date to be specified for application
6.5.b.ii	Associate membership	Typographical
6.5.b.iv	Associate membership games	Games must be completed
6.5.e	Full membership application	Depends on performance and conduct of team
8.1.d	Insurance annual period	Moved to 31 March from 31 January

BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

1. Preambles

1.1 Regulations

a) These regulations are those that constitute the Rules referred to in the Articles of Association.

1.2 Ignorance of Regulations is no excuse

a) It is incumbent upon all members and their designated Officers to ensure that they read, fully understand, observe and carry out the letter of, and intention of, these regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations is no excuse nor is it any defence in respect of disciplinary action or claim by another member.

1.3 Retention and Amendment of Regulations

a) Up to date copies of these regulations will be maintained on the League's website.

b) From time to time, as amendments are produced, they will be sent to members.

c) Members are advised to keep superseded copies of the regulations for reference.

1.4 Difference between Regulations and Game Rules

a) These Regulations are not made in respect of the Rules for the conduct, regulation and controlling of games (hereinafter referred to as Game Rules - also referred to as the Rule Book). Game Rules shall be those applicable at the time the game is played issued by the relevant authority or Association dealing with Game Officials and the Referee shall be the sole arbiter in respect of any decision under his jurisdiction as specified in the Rule Book except as modified or enhanced under these Regulations.

1.5 Appendices

a) Appendix 'A' specifies the Rule Book and defines the regulating authority for Officials and defines Officials and Referees.

b) Appendix 'B' - indicates the League Office address and officers of the Company.

c) Appendix 'C' - specimen of the Application Form to be completed annually by potential members.

d) Appendix 'D' - specimen of Registration forms.

e) Appendix 'E' - specimen of Transfer Forms.

f) Appendix 'F' - specimen of Game day Roster Forms.

g) Appendix 'G' - Notes for Guidance on Game Day Management.

2. Definitions

2.1 Club

a) Shall mean Member, Club or Team as required by the context of these Regulations - see also Member.

2.2 Colour

a) Where reference is made to colour particularly in the case of game shirts, it shall mean colour or any different shade of the same colour.

2.3 Contrasting Colour

a) Shall mean a different colour or different shade of the same colour that so contrast with each other as to be immediately differentiated one from the other.

2.4 Company or The Company

a) Gridiron Football League Limited registered in England, Number 2353839 whose registered office is at :- 47,51&53 High Street, Boston, Lincs PE21 8SP

2.5 Game Management

a) means the whole of the process of managing, controlling and organising game day and arranging everything necessary for the conduct of the game and the organisation and regulation of the spectators, stadium, pitch, changing accommodation, medical facilities, Officials assistants, field equipment and all other matters referred to directly or indirectly (by implication) in these Regulations.

b) shall also mean those persons or that person designated by the Home Team to manage game day.

2.6 Game Rules

a) see Appendix 'A'

2.7 Home Team

a) shall be the team specified in the schedule as being the Home Team for that particular game regardless of the venue used for that game.

2.8 Kick off Time

a) shall be that time for kick-off notified to the teams by the League Office or as amended by the Home Team in accordance with clause 5.1 paragraph f) hereof.

2.9 League and/or League Office

a) shall be, as the context provides, the official representation of the Company in respect of these Regulations and actions to be taken and the

Officers of the Company AND shall be the base of operation of the Company for the time being as is shown in Appendix 'C'.

2.10 Member

a) is a member of the Company, Club or Team as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

2.11 Officer

a) shall be an officer of a Member, Club or Team as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

2.12 Official Game

a) shall mean a regular season or play-off game (or any other game as may be specified by the League Office from time to time).

2.13 Officials Assistants

a) are Chain Crew (including Box {down marker} operator) and Ball Boys.

2.14 Referee and/or Officials

a) see Appendix 'A'

2.15 Registered Colour

a) shall mean the colour notified to the League Office under clause 6.1.

2.16 Rule Book

a) see Appendix 'A'

2.17 Team

a) shall also mean Club

2.18 BAFA Registration Agent

a) Organisation appointed by BAFA to process registrations in the sport.

3. Game Day Management

3.1 *General Principles*

- a) Game Management shall be the Home Team's responsibility except for Bowl Games where teams will be relieved of the responsibility which will be undertaken by the League or its chosen Agent.
- b) In general the Officials will not wish to prevent a game being played. Where there is a contravention of these Regulations concerning Game Management or Game Rules the Referee is entitled to find, and so decide, that the game can take place and it will be for the League Office to adjudicate on the effect and seriousness of the infraction, its affect on the likely outcome of the game and the disciplinary action to be taken and the penalties imposed.
- c) Notwithstanding b) above, the Referee shall be sole arbiter in respect of decisions as to whether to cancel, delay, suspend or abandon the game.
- d) It is incumbent upon Game Management to carry out the instructions of and to follow the procedures laid down by Referee and Officials.

3.2 *Notification to Away Teams*

- a) Home Team shall notify Away Team of the following, at least four weeks prior to Game Day:
 - i) Nature of the pitch upon which the game is to be played (i.e. grass, Astroturf, etc.).
 - ii) Size of pitch.
 - iii) Venue.
 - iv) Description of venue including car parking, coach parking, seating arrangements, whether refreshments likely to be available, etc.
 - v) Price of admission.
 - vi) Nature of changing facilities including those for Cheer-leaders.
 - vii) Directions to venue including location map.
- b) A team may alternatively provide the above via a pre-season Conference Meeting, should one be held.
- c) Changes to any of the above should be notified to the League Office and affected teams as soon as the change is known.

3.3 *Game Management*

- a) Game Management shall be the responsibility of the Home Team. (see Clause 3.1a)).
- b) Game Management shall do everything necessary and supply everything necessary, whether or not specifically stated in these regulations or Game Rules, to ensure that the game takes place and is satisfactorily concluded (subject to matters being carried out by others where specifically designated in these Regulations or in the Game Rules as being the responsibility of others).
- c) Reporting of game scores

i) During a game it is the responsibility of the Home Team management to update the League Office as to the game score either at the end of each quarter played or after each score. For the purpose of this regulation a touchdown and subsequent try shall be counted as a single score.

ii) Following a League Game it is the responsibility of the Home Team Management to contact the League Office before 8.00 pm on the day of the game to confirm the full results and scores of the game. The only exception to this rule is when there is an evening kick-off, where the League Office will issue special Rules.

iii) The contact number to be used for the purposes of this rule will be supplied each week with the game rosters.

iv) Failure to comply with the above rule will result in a £25.00 fine.

d) The designated kick off time for all official league games excluding Bowl games is allocated by the League Office. The games are to be played on Sundays or as otherwise designated during the dates allocated by the league office for regular season and play off games. Games may only be played at times other than the designated kick off time by agreement of both teams and the League Office. In the event of there being no agreement the League Office will decide the date, time and venue for the game.

3.4 Delayed start of, and suspension of, game

a) Whatever the circumstances, the maximum delay permissible in kick-off time at the commencement of the game is 1 hour (60 minutes) unless both teams and the Referee shall unanimously agree to an extension of time, at which time the extension shall be specified as a period of time.

b) Whatever the circumstances, the maximum period of suspension of the game, after the kick-off at the commencement of the game, is half of one hour (30 minutes) unless both teams and the Referee shall unanimously agree to an extension of time, at which time the extension shall be specified as a period of time.

3.5 The Field

a) Game Management shall effect any improvements to the field surface, marking and equipment requested or instructed by the Referee.

b) A delay caused by circumstances under the control of the Game Management shall be considered a contravention of Game Rules concerning delay and penalties therefore.

3.6 Game Supervision

a) A game must be supervised by a minimum of three Officials, except as unanimously agreed by the Managers of both teams and the Referee.

3.7 End Zones and Goal Posts

a) The end zones must be a minimum of 8 and maximum of 13 yards in depth and equal in size. If necessary to accommodate this, the length of the field of play (i.e. the distance between the goal lines) should be reduced. If the marked

end zones are found to be less than 8 yards deep, the 5- or 10-yard line will be used as the goal line and the length of the field of play reduced accordingly.

b) Goal posts must be padded with resilient material from the ground to a height of at least six feet.

3.8 *Field Markings*

a) Field Markings and field equipment must be in accordance with the Rule Book except that:

b) Goal posts may be 'H' type (rugby) posts.

c) Goal posts may be any colour so long as they are clearly visible.

d) Field length may be a minimum of 90 yards from the beginning of the 1995 Season.

e) Hash mark at 1-yard intervals marked 4 inches inside the sidelines may be dispensed with **only** if time is not available to secure their application. If time does not permit both sidelines to be marked, preference is for the sideline FURTHEST from the press box side of the field (where the chain crew will operate) to be marked first. Note that apart from such exceptional circumstances, hash marks are required to be marked on both sidelines.

3.9 *Pylons and line markers*

a) Pylons marking the intersections of the end lines, goal lines and sidelines which do not meet the requirements of the Rule Book (for example traffic cones) must be placed in the position designated by the Referee.

3.10 *Shirt Number and Colour*

a) Shirt numbers should relate to position played as defined in the Rule Book. A player should keep the same number throughout the season as far as possible except for the need to carry a different shirt number:

i) where the player changes his position either by joining or leaving the Offensive line (the Referee will accept a player occasionally in the Offensive backfield with an Offensive lineman number, subject to eligibility restrictions on passes).

ii) the original shirt is so badly damaged during a game as to make equipment illegal.

b) Home team shall have first choice of Shirt Colours. Where reference is made to Home team having first choice in regard to shirts it shall mean that IF their Registered Colour does not contrast with the Away team's Registered Colour then the HOME team having first choice will wear its Registered Colour and the AWAY TEAM must make alternative arrangements.

c) All players kitted for a team, in a league game, should have shirts of the same colour, pants of the same colour and socks of the same colour.

3.11 *Medical facilities*

a) Game Management is responsible for the provision of medical facilities that conform to the requirements laid down by the League Office. The following constitutes the minimum medical requirement:

- i) a first aid kit including a suitable (preferably inflatable) set of limb splints must be available;
- ii) an Ambulance and an Ambulance crew, available to transport injured participants to hospital, must be in attendance (unless in the act of transporting a case to hospital). These may be from voluntary organisations but must be uniformed, qualified, medical personnel (e.g. St John's, Red Cross)
- iii) a stretcher should be available;
- iv) drinking water should be available for both teams;

3.12 Changing Facilities for Visitors

a) Game Management shall provide adequate changing facilities for Away Team which shall include shower or bathing facilities and adequate security or, where there is a doubt concerning the level of security, the Management of the Away Team should be informed as soon as possible after their arrival and no later than one hour before kick-off time.

3.13 Officials changing facilities

a) The Officials must be provided with a changing room. The room must be large enough to accommodate five to seven people and must be available two hours to the scheduled kick-off time. Access to the room should not be via a team changing room. Seating must be provided and the room should be clean, warm, dry and quiet. Washing (preferably shower) and toilet facilities independent of players are desirable. An adequate number of coat hooks should also be provided.

b) The room should be secure i.e. either the Officials should be provided with a key to the room, or a responsible member of the Game Management assigned to lock and unlock the room as required by the Officials. Game Management should inform the Officials if there is any threat to the security of items left in the changing room.

c) Game Management staff, members of the press with enquiries, players and coaches shall only be allowed into the Officials' changing room with the expressed permission of the Referee. This applies before, during and after the game.

3.14 Match Balls

a) A MINIMUM OF THREE balls that conform to Game Rules must be presented to the Referee at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the game or as requested by the Referee.

b) Teams must check balls for pressure and condition before every game.

c) The balls should be inflated to a pressure of 12-half and 13-half psi BEFORE being presented to the Referee. Teams should keep a set of match balls distinct from the balls used in practice and should replace worn and particularly dirty balls.

d) In wet conditions (or if the Referee deems that conditions warrant it), teams must provide towels for the relevant Official and ball persons to use to keep the ball dry.

e) Should 3 Official Match Balls not be available on game day, in suitably good condition (as deemed by the referees), prior to K.O. the home team will be fined £50.00.

3.15 Official Ball

a) For the 2005 Season and subsequent Seasons the Official League Football, which all Clubs must use, will be as prescribed by the League Board Of Directors, ie the Wilson BAFA F1100. The Wilson F-1000 will also be acceptable in the 2007 playing season. No other make or model of football shall be used in League play.

3.16 Chains

a) The chain set must be to the minimum standard described in the BAFRA Rule Book, and the safety requirements of the Rule Book must be met.

b) In addition to a chain set, Game Management should supply a yardage chain clip of standard design.

3.17 Officials' Assistants

a) A minimum of FIVE persons (six is preferable) must be provided to act as Officials' assistants (ball persons and chain crew). They must report to the Officials 30 minutes prior to kick-off (or as required by the Referee) in order to be suitably briefed as to their duties.

b) The Officials' assistants shall be appointed to the following duties:

- i) Down box operator
- ii) Stake operator 1
- iii) Stake operator 2
- iv) Ball person 1
- v) Ball person 2
- vi) Chain clip operator (if six or more)

c) Except for Bowl Games it is the responsibility of the Away team to provide a person to Game Management to perform the duties of ball person on their sideline. This person must be available at the time requested by the Referee for the other officials' assistants. Teams failing to provide a ball person as required by this rule shall subject of a fine up to £50 if reported to the League Office by game management or a League game observer.

3.18 Water Carriers

a) Persons acting as water carriers may not enter the field of play except as directed by the Referee.

3.19 Sideline control

a) Sideline control shall be the responsibility of Game Management which shall include the regulation and control of media, statisticians, VIPs at coin-toss and kick-off and Commentators.

3.20 *Payment for Officials*

- a) Should be made preferably before the game, and no later than 30 minutes after its ending.
- b) Officials should be paid their game fee and expenses individually and directly to the Official concerned.
- c) Administration fee be paid to the Referee who will provide a VAT invoice.
- d) Late payments not received by relevant authority for Officials will be subject to a surcharge. The League will also be notified if any team defaults in payments.

3.21 *Stadium Clocks*

- a) Shall not be the official time clock and shall be used at the discretion of and as directed by the Referee, unless agreed otherwise by the League office.

3.22 *Identification check*

- a) A check of identity of players against the League-issued game roster form is mandatory prior to every League Game. This may be done either inside or outside but bad weather is not an acceptable reason for it being omitted. If there are any discrepancies these should be notified to the Officials at the earliest opportunity. The Officials will note the complaints and send a report to the League Office. Clubs should contact the League Office with any complaint, verbally and/or in writing.
- b) If so requested by the opposing team's Game Day Management, a further check thereof must be available at half-time, prior to the Second-Half kick-off. This request must be made at least 30 minutes prior to the Opening kick-off of the game to the opposition's Game Day Management. This request cannot be refused or disciplinary action may be taken by the League.

3.23 *Scoreboard*

- a) At least one scoreboard, visible to the playing field should be erected and kept up to date with the current game score.

3.24 *Barriers*

- a) Game Management must secure the position where spectators and other non-eligible persons are restrained at least 6 feet from the sideline. This to be done by erecting a barrier at least 6 feet from the sideline or providing some other form of demarcation in the interests of safety.

3.25 *Game-Day Roster Forms*

- a) A fully completed Game-Day Roster Form must be passed to the opposing team and Referees after the identity check. This information must be supplied via the official League roster form prepared for that game. A further list with positions should be given to the commentator 30 minutes prior to kick-off.
- b) A fully completed Game-Day Roster Form must be sent to the League Office to arrive by the Wednesday following the game.

3.26 Nationality of Players

- a) There will be a limit of 15 American / Canadians / Mexicans / Japanese (by passport nationality) that a team may register. A maximum of five of a team's players in this category may be permitted to be active for a team at any given game and these five must be notified to the opposition as part of the identification check. Those who are not permitted to play may be in the team area for the game but they must not be wearing playing kit.
- b) Players with dual or multiple nationality will not be counted within the above restriction providing one of these nationalities is British or that of another EU country.

3.27 Statistics

- a) Each club should provide statistics for every official League game and clubs are asked to make sure that the completed Game Statistics Sheets reach the League Statistician by the relevant deadline. Failure to comply results in a fine of £50 being imposed on the team which defaults. Clubs must have proof of postage available in the case of queries.

3.28 Referee's Official Reports

- a) The League office shall investigate the Referee's Official Report and will take such action including disciplinary action (under Regulation 7), as it may at its discretion consider appropriate.

3.29 Video Recording of Official Games

- a) Members may video record for future coach purposes only official game that they are participating in.
- b) Members may video record any official game for future coach purposes only that they are not participating in after informing the management of each team as a courtesy that they are going to do so.
- c) In accordance with the Game Rules these recordings may not be used for coaching purposes at any time during a game or between periods of a game.

4. Registration

4.1 Preambles

- a) Where reference is made to Registration this is equally applicable to the transfer of players. In the circumstances of transfer it will not be possible for a player to have Registration in the names of two teams at the same time. Consequentially, when Registration is accepted for a player with a team, all previous Registrations are automatically cancelled subject to that Registration not being fraudulent or against the terms of these Regulations.
- b) Registration is required each year i.e. registration of players, club officers, cheer-leaders etc., does not continue from one year to the next unless specifically noted with a new specified cut-off date.
- c) A club must register coaches, players, officers (including medical assistants, statisticians etc.) and cheerleaders on the prescribed BAFA forms appropriate to the year of registration.
- d) A player may not play for a team in an official game unless he is registered with the League Office as being a member of that team.

4.2 Period of Registration and Validity

- a) A player or Club Member is considered by the League to be registered with a team immediately the registration has been processed at the League Office and NOT before.
- b) A player's Registration shall remain valid until the player either resigns from the club or transfers to and registers with another club.
- c) There is no period of free agency. Should a player resign from a team and then wish to come back into the League at a later stage his registration continues from the time and with the club that he was registered with.
- d) No Regulation may cancel or mitigate the terms of any Contract between team and player.
- e) Any person, whether player, coach or auxiliary staff who at any time will be within the player area must be registered with the League and therefore with BAFA.
- f) Registration will not be valid if it does not comply with these Regulations.

4.3 Cost of Registration

- a) Valid Registrations received by the BAFA registration agent will cost a fee including insurance and League fees, which shall be set from time to time by the Board.

4.4 System of Registration and Transfer

- a) All personnel to be registered will have to submit a completed Registration Form, together with a passport size photograph and the payment for registration and insurance. THE REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ISSUED IF THIS PROCEDURE HAS NOT BEEN STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

- b) A copy of government issued identification, certified by the Club Official that verifies that the player is over 18-years old must accompany all player registrations. Acceptable forms of identification are given on the registration form. Submission of a non-listed form of identification may delay processing of the registration, or lead to its rejection.
- c) Registrations will only be processed during the same working week as they are received, if they are received at BAFA registration agent by first post Tuesday of that week.
- d) Appearance on the League Office issued game roster indicates eligibility for the game to which it refers. No amendment can be made to this on game day unless this has arisen through an error by the League Office and only then if corrected by the League office a minimum of 2 hours before kickoff. With this sole exception any player that does not appear on that roster will be considered by the League Office to be ineligible for that game without exception.

4.5 *Conditions for Registration*

- a) A player may not be registered for a club in the following circumstances:
 - i) he is under the age of 18 at the time the Registration Form is submitted.
 - ii) he is Registered with a club in another League outside the United Kingdom
 - iii) he is Registered with another club in this League.
 - iv) he is under ban or suspension as a result of disciplinary action.
 - v) incorrect Registration procedure has been carried out.
 - vi) he owes kit or money, or has other commitment, to another club.
 - vii) he is currently subject to a ban, suspension, or period of ineligibility from a governing body of another sport for a violation that would have been contrary to the BAFA anti-doping policy in this sport.
- b) The cut-off dates for receipt of the forms by the BAFA Registration agent and League office as appropriate of player registrations and transfers are as follows:
 - i) For players who have not previously played in the League or its predecessors: Tuesday following the last week of the regular season.
 - ii) For players rejoining the teams they were last registered with: Tuesday following the last week of the regular season.
 - iii) For players transferring from one club to another: 31 July.

4.6 *Playing of Ineligible Players*

- a) Any team playing an ineligible player in an official game will face disciplinary action, unless this has arisen solely from an error by the League office.
- b) Any player playing in an official game for a team when he is not eligible will face disciplinary action unless this has arisen solely from an error by the League office.
- c) Disciplinary action in respect of paragraphs a) and b) of this Clause will be severe and may be any combination of fine, forfeiture of game, suspension

from the League, suspension for a specified number of games, withdrawal of registration or any other form of disciplinary action available to the Company.

4.7 *Transfers of Player*

a) Transfers are carried out using the Official Transfer Forms (Appendix E). This form is not required outside the playing season as defined in clause 5.2.a, providing both teams are full members of the League, and a check has been made that the transferee has no outstanding debts. A Transfer Form must be signed by the player, the Secretary of the team he is leaving and the Secretary of the acquiring team before the transfer will be authorised by the League. Once the player and 'gaining' team have completed the form it should be sent, together with a stamped, self addressed envelope, by 'Registered Mail' to the 'losing team'. The 'losing' team should then complete their part of the form and send it back in the envelope enclosed. The Transfer Form, together with a newly completed Registration Form and the required payment of £5 should then be sent to the League Office. Should there be any problem with the transfer the 'losing' team should inform the League Office.

b) Transfers, like registrations, will only be processed during the same working week as they are received, if they are received at the League Office on or before the Tuesday of that week.

c) No player may be transferred to another club in the following circumstances if:

- i) the transfer is received after the cut-off date
- ii) the player owes kit or money or has other commitments to his existing club.
- iii) the season has commenced regular season fixtures and the player is applying to transfer to a Club within the Conference of the team that he is currently registered with. However should both teams consent to this transfer, the transfer will be allowed.

d) Consent to transfer by 'losing' team may be indicated by e-mail from one of their official League contacts in lieu of a signature on the transfer form.

4.8 *Withholding of or Cancellation of Registration*

a) The League Office at its absolute and unfettered discretion may withhold registration or may within three months of granting registration cancel such registration if any club with whom the player was registered objects to such new registration on the grounds that there is proof that money or kit or other commitment is owed to the club by the player concerned.

b) The League Office at its absolute and unfettered discretion may withhold registration or may within three months of granting registration cancel such registration if it finds that any part of the registration was carried out mistakenly, dishonestly or fraudulently.

c) There is no provision under the rules for teams themselves to cancel or de-register players and this will not be allowed. Cancellation or transfer of a player's registration may only be carried out under Clauses 4.7 and 4.7a) and 4.7b).

4.9 Disputes

a) Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 4.8 in the case of a dispute concerning a player and amounts owed to, or commitments to, previous clubs the following shall be the procedure:

- i) Where a dispute arises registration will be withheld for 7 days following a receipt of the registration details from the BAFA registration agent by the League Office during which period the team wishing to register the player, the team claiming that the player owes kit or money or some other commitment and the player concerned shall be entitled to make a written submission to the League Office as the circumstances of the case.
- ii) During the period specified in (i) above the two teams concerned shall meet and attempt to resolve the situation.
- iii) If at the end of the 7 day period referred to in (i) above no conclusion been reached then the League Office shall arbitrate upon the payment of a non-returnable fee of £25.00 from each team and deliver its decision within a further seven days.
- iv) Regardless of the rights and wrongs of the case the fee referred to in shall not be transferred or charged to any person other than those specified i.e. no matter who is right or wrong £25.00 non-returnable fee has to be paid by the team wishing to register the player and the team(s) objecting to registration.
- v) The decision of the League Office shall be final subject only to Clause 4.8b).
- vi) The League Office shall give preference to evidence from the team(s) objecting to registration that it (they) did, regardless of the proximity in time to the event and/or the arbitration hearing, write by Recorded Delivery to the player concerned at his last known address taken from club records, drawing attention to his indebtedness, in whatever form, to the team and that no response was received from the player within 21 days of the date of the Recorded Delivery letter.
- vii) For the purposes of this Clause and these Regulations, an arbitration conducted by the League Office shall be informal at which the procedures shall be determined by the League Office or the person chosen to arbitrate and their findings and any awards and any imposition of sanctions or fines contained within Clause 7 of these Regulations shall be final.

4.10 Date of Registration

- a) A player shall be considered to be registered to a Club as soon as the League Office has processed the registration information received from the BAFA agent.
- b) Should the League Office register a player with a Club and subsequently find that there is an anomaly, mistake or some other error or matter which means that the player was incorrectly Registered then the League Office may de-register the player concerned relying upon Clause 4.8b).
- c) Should a team arrive at a game without a copy of their League-issued game day roster form, e.g. through forgetfulness or mislaying of it the opposition may, without playing, claim the game as a 1-0 victory. The League Office at

their discretion may pass on costs of putting on the game to the offending team.

5. Season and Fixtures

5.1 Scheduling including Kick-off Time

- a) The League Office shall allocate each team a set number of regular season fixtures, to be played on a home and away basis, unless otherwise prescribed in the case of inter-conference games.
- b) The League Office shall determine the schedule for Play-Off games.
- c) Unless otherwise specified, games will be held on Sundays subject to paragraphs d) and g) below.
- d) If both teams involved agree, they may re-schedule any regular season game so long as the League Office shall give its consent.
- e) If both teams involved agree, they may re-schedule any Play-Off game so long as the League Office shall give its consent and previously committed publicity is not contradicted.
- f) If the League does not consent to a change of date or location of a game then the originally scheduled date and location remains in force.
- g) New teams applying to the League from 2007 onwards will be required to be able to host and attend games on Saturdays.

5.2 Season

- a) The playing season shall be determined by the League Office, but shall normally run from April through September.
- b) The Play-Offs will consist of, at the minimum, the top two teams from each Conference going forward to the Play-offs.

5.3 Cancellation

- a) Clubs may not cancel fixtures except in circumstances beyond their control and reasonably unavoidable. If a fixture is not fulfilled either because of cancellation by one or both clubs, or the default of one or both clubs, or by cancellation or abandonment by the Referee, or exceptionally in the event of intervention by the League Office, or in any other event, then the League Office shall at its discretion and taking into account such reasons or evidence as it shall consider relevant, decide whether to reschedule the fixture (or permit its rescheduling by the clubs) or may at its discretion settle the result of such unfulfilled fixture and may take such disciplinary action as it deems appropriate under the terms of the Regulations included in Section 7 Fines and Disciplinary Action.
- b) Any loss of costs or loss of revenue as a result of a cancelled fixture will be borne by the offending team. In the case of a Referees cancellation or non-attendance at a game the costs incurred will be sought from BAFRA via the League Office. The League will not be responsible for this cost nor will it be responsible for any loss of revenue or costs as a result of teams folding or leaving the League.

5.4 *Games other than official*

- a) Clubs should inform the League Office of all games they propose to play additionally to official games, whether these are against other League members or otherwise.

6. Assessment of members and submission of details

6.1 Annual Application Form

- a) A Club's Membership shall continue from year to year and at a date set by the Board a partial payment of the League Fees shall be required. This shall be forfeit should the Club withdraw from the League. Each member shall also submit to the League Office, prior to this specified date, a completed Club Application Form (Appendix C).
- b) At the discretion of the League Office, a partially completed Application Form may be submitted pending the resolution of any problem preventing a fully completed Application Form being submitted, at which time the League Office may specify a new cut-off date.
- c) A Club is considered to be a full member of the British American Football League and of Gridiron Football League Ltd. immediately the required League joining fee has been paid in full. Clubs who do not submit their payments by deadlines stated by the League Office will be subject to disciplinary measures, including possible expulsion from the League.

6.2 Change of Details

- a) All changes to each Club's Official details must be notified to the League Office immediately. This includes a change in any detail of information submitted on the Application Form.
- b) A change to the club name or the location of the training and/or game day operations of a member requires prior approval of the League office.
- c) All official correspondence will be directed to the last notified address of a member. Failure by a member to deal with priority correspondence could lead to disciplinary action.

6.3 Vetting Teams (Members) and additional information.

- a) The League Office may seek any information when vetting teams for suitability or carrying out supplementary investigations during the period of membership. Members may not refuse to submit information, data, details, evidence or like material requested by the League Office.

6.4 New Full Member

- a) A new team is defined as one that did not have full membership of the League in the season immediately prior to the season for which it is applying.
- b) A new team on joining the League as a full member must satisfy the following conditions which may only be excepted at the discretion of the League Office:
 - i) It must not situate its training or game day operations within a 20-mile radius of an existing League team's training or game-day operations.
 - ii) Playing and non-playing personnel may only be registered for a new team if they were not registered with an existing League team for the season immediately prior to the new team's first season of

participation in the League. The only exception to this is if both the existing team and the League agree.

iii) It must have a nickname that is distinct from a current member of the League and that is approved by the League Office. Use of an additional adjective (eg 'Red', 'Fighting') does not make the nickname distinct.

iv) A minimum of 30 player registrations and one non-playing coach must accompany the application by the specified cut-off date for new applications. The coach must be a member of BAFCA, and be already qualified to the basic BRM level as a minimum.

v) The team will have demonstrated ability to complete a minimum of one home and one away game as associate members of the League or otherwise in the calendar year of the application for full membership.

6.5 Associate teams

a) Prior to applying to join the League as a full member, a team may apply to become an associate by the deadline date set by the Board for such applications.

b) Associate teams must satisfy the same conditions as a new full member, as detailed in clause 6.4.a with the following exceptions:

i) Only 20 qualifying player registrations are required to accompany the application rather than 30 (6.4.a.iv).

ii) 6.4.a.v does not apply.

c) Associate teams will be entitled to:

i) Cover under the League insurance policies for registered players and non-players.

ii) The issue of a copy of the League rules and memorandum and Articles of Association.

iii) Issues of TeamLink - the League's official team information publication.

iv) One copy of the BAFA/BAFRA playing rules book.

d) The acceptance of a team as an Associate member does not give any voting rights as member of Gridiron Football League Limited which operates the League, nor to participate in official games.

e) The granting of associate membership does not imply or guarantee acceptance of any subsequent application to join as a full member. Any such application will be considered on its merits when the application is made based on the demonstrated conduct and performance of the team.

f) Associate teams must submit an application for admittance as a full member for the season taking place in the calendar year subsequent to the team becoming an associate. Failure to do so will result in termination of the status as an associate team, and they may not re-apply for such membership for one season.

7. Fines and Disciplinary Action

7.1 Entitlement

a) Notwithstanding anything in these Regulations entitlement is hereby created to take disciplinary action and impose fines or sanctions as included hereinafter for any contravention of these Regulations whether or not any specific reference is made to disciplinary action in the relevant Regulation.

7.2 Circumstances

a) The League Office shall, under the supervision of the League Administration Director, be entitled to take disciplinary action against clubs, Officers of clubs, members of clubs and players in any of the following circumstances:

i) If any club, Officer of club, member of club or player brings the League, American football or any of the League's Sponsors or official suppliers name into disrepute.

ii) If any club, Officer of club, member of club or player issues to the media or the public any statement which the League Office believes is detrimental to the League as a whole or is contrary to the interests of the majority of members without first obtaining the approval of the League Office to such statement.

iii) If any club Officer, club member, Official's assistant or player is ejected from a League game or is the subject of an adverse report from the Officials presiding over such game.

iv) If any Club Officer, Club Member, Official's Assistant or player receives a fine it is the responsibility of the Club to pay the fine, not the individual member. However, the Club may then recover payment of that fine from the offender himself. The offender may then be subject to Clause 4.8a).

v) If any club, Officer of club, member of club or player in any way breaches or falls within the scope for disciplinary action under any of the League Regulations from time to time in force or the terms of any Membership Agreement existing with the Gridiron Football League Limited and governing such person.

7.3 Investigation & Disciplinary Award

a) If the League has reason to believe that any clubs, Officers of clubs or players are in breach of the above provisions, the League Administration Director shall carry out a full investigation from the League Office. The League Administration Director shall offer the party facing disciplinary action the opportunity to provide evidence and shall consider any evidence offered by the said party and any other parties and/or witnesses. The League Administration Director shall then issue the disciplinary award if found guilty. The disciplinary award may, at the discretion of the League Office, consist of any one or any combination of the following:

i) A fine, to be produced within 28 days, failing which the fine may be deducted from the relevant club's deposit (if any). Fines unpaid after 28 days and not settled from a deposit shall be a ground for

further disciplinary action. The level of fine will be that which is decided by the League Administration Director other than amounts expressly specified in these Rules And Regulations.

ii) Suspension from participation in League games of club Officer, club members, Official's assistants or players ejected from League games or the subject of an adverse Official's report. Without prejudice to the discretion of the League Office, suspension shall normally be for the offender's team's next played game on first offence. On a second offence the offender will be suspended for the rest of the duration of the season.

iii) Cancellation of player's registration.

iv) Suspension or expulsion of clubs from membership of the League.

v) Forfeiture of games.

vi) Such other disciplinary action as may be decided upon by the League office as appropriate to the circumstances.

7.4 Appeals

a) Any party to a dispute, disciplinary procedure or hearing dealt with under this section of these Regulations may appeal against any decision or award made against them under this section of these Regulations upon giving notice of appeal accompanied by a deposit of £100.00 to the League Office within a maximum period of 14 days after being notified of the award or decision.

b) The appeal shall be heard within 21 days by the Directors of the company, at a time and location notified by the League Office to the appellant. The procedure shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

c) If the appeal is not upheld the £100.00 deposit will be forfeit. If it is upheld the £100.00 deposit will be returned

d) Should the appeal not be upheld the appellant can then appeal to BAFA Details of this procedure are contained within the BAFA Disciplinary Code as included within the BAFA produced book, as specified in Appendix A.

8. Insurance

8.1 Requirements

- a) It is mandatory that ALL players are insured through Gridiron Football League Ltd. with an Insurance Agency appointed by Gridiron Football League Ltd. The insurance is to cover training and playing American football and travelling to and from games and practices in organised parties.
- b) Insurance payments are to be included with each Registration form sent to the League Office to be processed. A player Registration Form will not be processed unless insurance fees are enclosed.
- c) It is the responsibility of the League Directors to negotiate as low as an insurance fee as possible, and for the League Office to monitor the League Insurance System and ensure that the Insurance Agency are efficient and fair when dealing with claims.
- d) The period of yearly insurance will end 31st March of the following year each year and the new yearly insurance to commence immediately the player re-registers with the League. Player Registration Forms for the following season will be available in December to ensure that players can be continually insured from one year to another.
- e) If a player is injured during a period where he has finished one yearly insurance and not begun another, the Company, the League and its members accept no responsibility.
- f) The Directors of Gridiron Football League Ltd. will be solely responsible for any amendments or changes to Rule 8.1. Rule 8.1 cannot be changed or removed by the general Membership.

9. Sponsorship

9.1 Rights

- a) The League Office or League Appointed Agents representing Gridiron Football League Ltd. have the sole right to negotiate Sponsorships and Official Suppliers Deals on behalf of the Company and the League.
- b) Upon the completion of negotiations the League Office or the League Appointed Agent of Gridiron Football League Ltd. must submit a full report to Company Directors. The Company Directors then have the responsibility of deciding whether or not to sign each respective Sponsorship or Official Supplier's Contract/Agreement.

9.2 Responsibilities

- a) Upon signing Sponsorship and/or Official Supplier's Contract/Agreement the Company Directors, League Office, Clubs and Team Members must give full support to the Sponsoring or Official Supplier's Company.
- b) During the period of the Contract/Agreement the League Office must maintain close contact to ensure that the Contract/Agreement remains workable and mutually beneficial to both Organisations.
- c) It is the responsibility of the League Office to ensure the Sponsor or Official Supplier are keeping to the conditions as laid down in the Contract/Agreement.
- d) If any Member Team or Club Member is found to have brought the Sponsor's or Official Supplier's name into disrepute disciplinary action will be taken. See Clause 7.

10. British American Football Association

10.1 Membership

- a) The Gridiron Football League Ltd. trading as the British American Football Association Senior League are obliged to remain as Members of the British American Football Association (BAFA), the Governing Body of American Football in Britain.
- b) The purpose of our membership to BAFA is to achieve the following:
 - i) to enable the League to discuss freely the workings of British American football with other Organisations involved in American football who are also Members of BAFA;
 - ii) to, as far as possible, standardise Rules and Regulations throughout all Leagues, including drugs policies;
 - iii) to, through BAFA, receive communication and information from the European Federation of American Football (EFAF);
 - iv) to act as an arbitrator between the various Organisations in British American football;
 - v) to have BAFA act as a Final Appeals Committee regarding disciplinary action between the League Office and its Member Teams or the League Registered Members of the Member Teams.
 - vi) to have BAFA act as our League Representative with the National Football League of America (NFL) and the NFL World Partnership.
 - vii) to have BAFA co-ordinate between it's Member Leagues and the International scene of American football.
 - viii) to have BAFA continuing to represent British American football with other sporting Bodies such as the Sport UK.
- c) The Company Directors and/or League Office will elect/appoint a representative of Gridiron Football League Ltd. to the BAFA Board Of Directors, whose purpose is to act as the representative of the League.
- d) All Rules & Regulations as laid down in the BAFA Disciplinary Code in the publication specified in Appendix A will supersede the relevant rule contained within these Rules and Regulations.

11. Special Considerations and Circumstances

11.1 Other matters

- a) Any matters not covered by these Regulations shall be dealt with at the discretion of the League Office who shall, at all times, act in the interests of the Company, the League, the sport and with the even-handedness towards all members.

APPENDIX 'A' – Rule Book

The Game Rules or the Rule Book is that issued by BAFA under the title of : BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION : FOOTBALL RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

Relevant Authority or Association for the issue of the Game Rules/Rule Book and regulation of Officials is:

The BAFRA / BAFA Rules Committee

Note that the following rule options are currently in force in the British American Football League:

- 3-1-3 / 13-6-3: Overtime is not to be played in a regular season game. The NCAA tiebreaker will be used in playoff games in order to determine a result.
- 3-2-1 / 13-6-4: Playing time normally shall be 60 minutes.
- 3-3-3-c,d,e: Result including score stands if game is abandoned at or after half time. Decision on the appropriate future course of action for games abandoned earlier than half-time will be made by the League Office.

The Official Game Ball of the League (regulation 3.15) is the Wilson BAFA F-1100.

APPENDIX 'B' – League Contacts

BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
P O BOX 73,
BOSTON,
LINCS,
PE21 0NL.

DIRECTORS

Chairman & finance	Glen Schild	chairman@bafl.org.uk
Operations	Mark Blyth	operations@bafl.org.uk
Administration	Nigel Clift	admin@bafl.org.uk
Development	Jeremy Rogers	development@bafl.org.uk
Media	Ken Walters	media@bafl.org.uk
Performance	Simon Newnham	performance@bafl.org.uk

COMPANY SECRETARY - Charles V. Fraser-McNamara

For the purposes of these regulations, the League Office shall also mean the Officers and the corporate decision making machinery of Gridiron Football League Limited.