

# **WFA BYLAWS**



**Welcome to the Next Level**

## **WFA Bylaws and Code of Conduct**

The WFA is designed to empower responsible owners in order to create the highest level of Women's football in the nation. We will not impose strict guidelines or long-term contracts. The WFA will be the premier Women's football league in the country and it will be a privilege to be a part of the next generation of Women's football. The WFA team owners will be expected to operate their team with the highest level of professionalism. Teams owners who do not represent the WFA in a favorable manner may be disqualified from the league or not be invited to return. The WFA will work as a democracy to insure owners are being provided a fair, affordable, and professional league. The WFA is the 'Teams' league. The WFA will provide as much assistance as possible to ensure each teams success, whether it be to complete a rookie season or to help establish media coverage and corporate sponsorship.

### **General Team Guidelines**

- A. League Fee: \$2000
- B. Teams need to have a minimum of 30 players on their roster one-month prior to start the season.
- C. Performance bonds may be mandated by the league for rookie teams or teams who have not had proven success completing their seasons. These bonds will be a \$500 refundable deposit. The deposit will be refunded in full if teams complete the regular season without a forfeit. In the event of a last minute forfeit, money will be distributed to the teams who may have suffered financial losses due to the un-played game.
- D. Teams will insure that all waivers are signed by players prior to the start of the season.

### **General League Guidelines**

- A. Teams will be provided a minimum of 10 official Spalding WFA Youth game balls.
- B. Teams will be a one year account with WatchGameFilms.com.
- C. Teams will be provided compensation for playoff travel. (See Away Games)
- D. Teams will play a minimum of 4 home and 4 away games.
- E. League will pursue every avenue possible to have Championship Game televised by major sporting networks.
- F. Players and team statistics will be posted on WFA league website.
- G. Championship teams will receive 50 free uniforms and 50 championship rings.

## **WFA/ TEAM PLAYER GUIDELINES**

### **1. INJURY WAIVER**

a. All players and coaches must sign an injury waiver provided by the WFA. No player or coach may participate in any practice, scrimmage or game without having a signed injury waiver in the WFA's office.

### **2. HEALTH INSURANCE**

a. All players and coaches must provide the team owner and the WFA with proof of health insurance.

This health insurance must be in force during the agreement with all players and coaches. No player or coach may participate in any practice, scrimmage or game without having proof of health insurance in the team and in the WFA's office.

### **3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**Age:** Players must be 18 years of age or older. Players who are age 17 must have special permission from the league, parental consent, and have a parent cosign all league documents (Code of Conduct, Waiver). No Player under the age of 17 will be allowed to play in the WFA.

#### **A. Active Player**

A new player is considered active on a WFA team if:

1. She has signed a 1 Season Team Contract, a WFA Code of Conduct and a WFA Waiver with their current team for the 2011 Season.

A player on the 2010 roster is automatically considered an active player.

Once active, a player is not allowed to be recruited by another WFA Team.

#### **B. Official Player**

Active players are considered "Official Players" after February 1, 2011. Official Players may not play for another WFA Team unless formally released.

Players are official for one season and are eligible to play for another WFA team after the WFA season is complete (after WFA Championship).

### **Illegal Recruitment**

Teams (owners, players, staff) are not allowed to contact (email, facebook, text, call, talk) any active players from another team unless:

1. The player makes contact with the team first. (ie Phone call, email, facebook, talk, or attend tryout)

Players who are illegally recruited will not be allowed to play for the team in violation of the player recruitment policy.

Teams who have illegally recruited players will be fined a \$500 for each offense.

### **Relocation**

Players who move out their team's area are allowed to play for another WFA team during that season if she has fulfilled all requirements for official release. (Requirements may include turning in borrowed gear / uniforms, playbook, and/or are in good standing on all financial obligations with their previous team.

Players are not allowed to play against their former team during the current season if they have changed teams due to relocation.

#### **4. AWAY GAMES**

- a. All WFA teams travel and hotel accommodations expenses are paid for by the traveling team.
- b. Playoff travel will be partially compensated by the WFA. A minimum of \$10,000 will be allotted for travel for the Semi Final and Championship Teams.

#### **5. TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP SALES**

- a. Sponsorships and ticket sales are strongly encouraged to help generate revenue for your team. Team owners should have sponsorship packages that are available to players to help with funding.

#### **6. HOME GAMES**

Home games are to be played at a stadium with lights, scoreboard, locker rooms and press box. The WFA will provide teams with sample letters and information the assist teams in securing a quality football stadium.

Home teams are to provide the following to the traveling team 2 weeks in advance to the game:

- Name of Team Contact
- Phone Number and Email address
- Name of Stadium
- Address of Stadium
- Grass or Turf
- Access to Locker Rooms
- Access to Training table
- Full press box with separate room for coaches, stats, and video. (Also separate from home teams space)

#### **7. OFFICIAL GAME RULES**

The WFA will operate by NFL rules with minor adjustments. WFA Rules can downloaded from WFA Website.

#### **8. BALL**

1. Each team shall provide two game balls, and ball attendant.
2. The team must have 2 balls available for testing by the officials 20 minutes before game time

#### **9. Championship Game**

The WFA Championship game will rotate yearly between Regions. Teams may apply to host the Championship Game. Application should be submitted by December 31, 2010. The Championship Host will receive 100% of all proceeds from the Championship Game. The Championship Host must provide:

1. 10 Three (3) Star hotel rooms for one night for each Championship Team.
2. Quality Stadium meeting minimum WFA Home Field requirements
3. Game officials for Championship and All-American Game
4. Announcer and scorekeeper for Championship and All-American Game
5. Championship Game Programs

#### **9. Player Suspensions**

The WFA has a right to suspend players who violate the WFA Team Player Code of Conduct. Length of suspensions may be determined by obtaining information from one or more of the following:

1. Game Officials
2. Team Owner/Coaches
3. Team Players
4. Available Film

#### **10. GRIEVANCES**

Team owners or administration are asked to submit their grievances in writing to the WFA office. Every attempt will be made to resolve team and player conflicts in a fair and democratic manner. Players who have complaints against a particular team need to submit their grievance in writing to the WFA office. Players or staff who do not take the proper steps to resolve conflict and cause dissention among the team will not be supported by the WFA.

## WFA Team Code of Conduct

All players and coaches will agree to the following Code of Ethics/Conduct before they can attend any practices or games.

1. There will be no fighting between players or any team personnel on the field or anywhere on the premises of the game venue. You will be ejected from the game, leave the premises, and be suspended from playing in the WFA.
2. Any player leaving her sideline for the purposes of engaging in a fight will be asked to leave the premises and be suspended from playing in the WFA.
3. Abusive or vulgar language will be kept to a minimum. Any use of profanity will not be tolerated during games, including sidelines. If you are asked by the coaching staff, game officials or management personnel to refrain from vulgar language more than one time in a given game, you will be asked to leave the field.
4. Deliberate dirty play or cheap shots will not be tolerated at all. Zero tolerance for this type of action. You will be dropped from the team roster and not be released to play on another team until the next season.
5. Physical abuse of any kind to players, coaches, or management is unacceptable. You will be removed from the team immediately and the incident will be reported to the proper authorities.
6. Zero tolerance for any physical violence or threats of physical violence towards the game officials. You will be dropped from the team roster and the police will be called.
7. If you are removed from your team due to disrespectful, unlawful, or violent behavior, you will not play for any WFA team for the remainder of the season.
8. There will be no tolerance for drugs or alcohol on this team. Any player under the influence of drugs or alcohol during practice or a game will be immediately terminated from the team, no questions asked.
9. All Players are required to wear the team uniform in its' entirety. No alterations to the helmet decals, stripes, or numbers are permitted.

You are a role model for thousands of young women who thought playing football was never possible. We have set a high standard on this team and want the public and our peers to see that we are making a difference in the community by our actions on and off the field. No matter the outcome, you must maintain good sportsmanship before, during, and after the game. All players will shake hands with the other team after the game.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_