



**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
MIDGET FOOTBALL LEAGUE OF MANITOBA**

*--- Amended March 2011 ---*

**ARTICLE 1**

The name of the league shall be the Midget Football League of Manitoba, hereafter called "the League".

**ARTICLE 2**

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LEAGUE SHALL BE

- a) Inter alia, to promote and develop amateur football in the Manitoba area; to enforce the rules of the game and to supervise and organize all league games and championship series.
- b) In so doing, to liaise with the sports governing bodies of amateur football, namely Football Manitoba and Football Canada and any other in-province or out-of-province organizations in carrying out these objectives.

**ARTICLE 3**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

- a) The Annual Meeting must be held by the last Tuesday of March of each year, and shall consist of the following order of business:
  - A) Identification of Delegates
  - B) Minutes of the preceding meeting
  - C) Business arising from the minutes
  - D) Unfinished business - Amendments to Constitution
  - E) Treasurer's report
  - F) President's report
  - G) Election of Officers
  - H) New Business
  - I) Adjournment

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- b) No constitution amendments will be accepted from the floor. Any amendments must be sent to the Secretary in writing no later than the date of the prior month's League Meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will have copies made available to the members of the Executive and all clubs concerned prior to the Annual Meeting. Amendments to the constitution can only be made at the Annual General Meeting with a two-thirds vote.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### GOVERNMENT OF THE LEAGUE

The Executive officers of the League shall consist of the Past President, the President, three Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer (or one Secretary/Treasurer).

PAST PRESIDENT - Shall be in charge of a nominating committee and also be a guide in the following season.

PRESIDENT - Shall call and preside at all meetings of the League (General, League and Executive). He or she shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

Shall be League representative at all Football Manitoba meetings and official functions. Shall be League liaison with Referee-in-Chief, prior to season on all matters pertaining to officials.

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT - Shall assume all responsibility of the President in his or her absence. The main responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall be to handle the League registration. He or she will also be an alternate signing officer with the Treasurer and President.

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT - Shall assume the responsibility of the President in the absence of the President and the 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President, and the responsibility of the 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President. The main responsibility of the 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President will be for league and play-off scheduling. He or she shall attend all scheduling meetings between leagues and officials.

3<sup>RD</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT - The main responsibility of the 3<sup>RD</sup> Vice President shall be for League publicity. He or she will be responsible for news released to the media as required to inform the public of League activities.

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SECRETARY - Shall make regular entries of the proceedings at meetings of the League. He or she shall keep a register of all team representatives and have custody of all books and records pertaining to the office. The Secretary will supply each League Executive with a copy of the minutes of the past meeting no later than one week before the next meeting. He or she shall notify members by mail or email, when necessary, of all meetings.

TREASURER - Shall have custody of all League funds. Such funds shall be deposited in a Chartered Bank or Credit Union in the name of the Midget Football League of Manitoba. He or she shall keep regular accounts of receipts and expenditures and be custodian of all books, records and documents pertaining to the office. The treasurer shall present a financial report at each League meeting. He or she shall set player registration based on an expected budget filed at the beginning of each year with the approval of the Executive. The treasurer shall be responsible for the assigning of the bingo workers and be the contact person to Football Manitoba for all bingo matters.

- a) Each of the Executive Officers must be nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Executive.
- b) A quorum of the Executive shall consist of 50% of its members. A quorum of the League Council shall consist of one delegate from 2/3's (two-thirds) of the teams participating in the current season.
- c) Voting rights will be distributed as follows:
  - 1) Each team shall have, via its delegate, one vote at any League meeting. Each Executive member shall have one vote at all Executive and League meetings.
  - 2) Failure to have at least one representative at any General League meeting shall result in a \$50.00 fine to the offending team payable to the League by the next General meeting. Failure to have at least one representative at the League's Annual General meeting shall result in a \$100.00 fine to the offending team payable to the League at the next General meeting. A fine for non-attendance at meetings must be paid by the second meeting following the absence or else the offending club will not be allowed to vote at the second meeting or any following meetings until the club has paid the fine.

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A fine for non-attendance at a bingo must be paid by the second meeting following the infraction or else the club will not be allowed to vote at the second meeting or any following meetings until the club has paid the fine.

Any fines outstanding for 6 months past the infraction date will result in the club being withdrawn from the league and must pay the outstanding fine and go through the normal readmission process.

3) At the Annual General Meeting, each team may have as many representatives as it desires, but the voting will remain one vote per team and one vote for each member of the Executive.

d) Signing Officers

The Signing Officers of the League shall be the Treasurer with the President and/or 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- a) Arrange for player registration.
- b) Account for all monies (income and expenditures).
- c) Creation of schedules for league and play-off games with all necessary names and addresses.
- d) Publicize the League.
- e) Estimate expenses and set entry fees for the League.
- f) Sole enforcing body for the constitution.

## **ARTICLE 6**

Any By-Law may be amended at any league meeting by a majority vote subject to a quorum being present.

## **ARTICLE 7**

1) It shall be the sole and complete responsibility of each team to ensure that all players must be of the age specified in By-Law 24. In the event that one team officially challenges the age of a player of an opposing team, the following procedure shall apply:

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## A) THE PROTEST

- 1) Done before, during (only at half time) or immediately after the game (time limit ½ hour).
- 2) Protesting team immediately notifies game official (Head Referee) and Timekeeper of protest.
- 3) League Executive shall notify protesting Coach and opposing Coach of time and place for investigative meeting, preferably mid-week (Wednesday).
- 4) Opposing Coach/Manager would notify accused player and player's signing parent to present themselves and the original copy of the player's birth certificate or other legal certification of age at this investigative meeting.

## B) THE MEETING

- 1) With all parties present, the League representatives would verify the proof of age as being legal and correct.
- 2) The League representatives would then decide if protest is valid.

## C) THE PENALTIES

- 1) If the protest is valid and the accused player is over age, then:
  - a) The accused player is immediately suspended from playing in the League for the duration of the season.
  - b) The game played under protest will be awarded to the protesting team.
  - c) The result of the meeting will be handed over to the full League Executive for punitive action with respect to all preceding games that the accused player participated in.
- 2) If the protest is invalid and the accused player is eligible to play in the League, then the protesting team shall be assessed a penalty of \$25.00 for each occasion. If one team continually abuses the protest procedure, the League Executive should review the matter with the protesting team.

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## D) RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a) Every team in the League be notified of the outcome of each protest via telephone before the next League game.
  - b) Protest concerning proof of age be accepted during regular season play only.
  - c) The Manitoba Football Officials' Association be made aware of the League's proof of age protest mechanism.
  - d) All game sheets be forwarded to the League Registrar for reference at a later date.
- 3) Each player must wear proper protective equipment: shoulder pads, helmet, thigh pads, knee pads, hip pads, and mouthguard.
  - 4) Players with glasses must supply adequate protection, approved by League Management.
  - 5) Players are allowed to wear any footwear in accordance with the Canadian Amateur Football Rule Book.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### PERMISSION TO PLAY

Written permission from a player's parent or guardian must be received by the League waiving any claim for compensation from the League, its officers, clubs and their officers, in case of injury or death resulting from any operation of the League or its member clubs.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### DUTIES OF TEAMS

- A) Each team must furnish the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President not later than the date of the regular June meeting of the current season with the following information:

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- 1) Team Entry - Cheque for the full amount of the Team Registration Fee as set by the Treasurer. Each team must pay in full its initial team registration fee before the date of the regular June meeting of that year. If a team wishes to withdraw after this date, their registration fee is not refundable but \$500.00 of this fee will be put towards that team's registration fee if it decides to re-enter a team within the next two years.
  - 2) Name and address of all club officials, which must consist of a minimum of two coaches, manager, and a qualified trainer.
  - 3) Location of all home grounds.
  - 4) No team entries after the date of the regular June meeting.
  - 5) All players must attach to the league registrar's registration sheet a photocopy of their birth certificate, or a Manitoba Medical card displaying their date of birth and address, or other suitable government issued proof of age.
  - 6) Provide access to a phone for emergencies.
  - 7) Helmets and shoulder pads must meet N.O.C.S.A.E.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in the loss of franchise.

- B) 1) Playing field to be properly laid out and marked at least ten yards apart.
- 2) Home team to supply "downs box", yardsticks, and personnel to handle same.
- 3) All teams must appear at all games as scheduled.
- 4) Each team must supply one regulation ball for each game.
- 5) Each home team must provide 4 inch foam protective padding or equivalent around the goal posts to a minimum height of 6'0".
- 6) That a fine of a game forfeit be imposed in the opinion of the League Executive Officer, if the above mentioned items are not adhered to at each game.

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## **ARTICLE 10**

### POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

Under no circumstances shall a game be postponed except under extreme conditions to the playing field, in which case both teams must agree to do so. In cases of emergency, the League reserves the right to change the venue of any scheduled game.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### GAME SHEETS

Official game sheets must be completely filled out for each exhibition, league and play-off game. The name of each player participating in a game must appear on the score card before the commencement of the game. All game sheets for each game must be filed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the League as soon as possible and must be signed by all of the game officials.

It shall be the duty of the Manager of each team to see that these game sheets are properly completed. The scorekeeper shall be responsible for the handling of the League game sheets.

It shall also be the responsibility of the Manager of the home team to mail the game sheets to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President immediately following the game.

The game sheets must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president no later than 72 hours (3 days) after a game or the postmark showing no more than 48 hours (2 days) following a game. [e.g. - after Saturday game postmark must be by Monday and score sheet must be received by Tuesday (or as soon as the Post Office can get it there)]. Failure to comply with the above will result in a fine of \$25.00 to the club. Should the fine not be paid within 30 days the fine will be raised to \$50.00 for each occurrence.

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## **ARTICLE 12**

### GAME OFFICIALS

All game officials shall be appointed by the Referee-in-Chief.

The Midget Football League of Manitoba must send to the Manitoba Football Officials Association at least 30 days before the start of the season, a list of the League's special rules that do not correspond to the CAFA rule book. At each game the home team will present to the Head Referee a list of the league's special rules affecting the referees which the Head Referee must sign before the game commencement. The secretary has the responsibility to prepare the list of the league's special rules.

## **ARTICLE 13**

There shall be no protest of a game over a referee's decision. Other protests must be sent to the Secretary, in writing, within 48 hours (exclusive of holidays) of the particular game protested, accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 payable to the League, returnable if the protest is upheld. A Protest Committee shall be formed by the Executive consisting of three members not affiliated with any team involved in the protest. A brief shall be submitted to the Protest Committee by both litigants, along with the referee's report.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### NEW TEAMS

New teams seeking membership in the MFLM must receive a simple majority vote approval of the League and team representatives at a duly called meeting of the League. In the event of a tie vote, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

## **ARTICLE 15**

If and when the Midget Football League of Manitoba ceases to operate then the assets of the league shall be divided on a share basis between all teams who were registered in the last 3 seasons of play.

Each team shall receive one share for each of the seasons for which it was registered during the last 3 season of play. e.g. A team that was registered for only 2 of the last 3 seasons will receive 2 shares out of a possible maximum of 3 shares per team.