

Atlantic Fantasy Football League

Official League Rulebook 2011 Fantasy Season

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I. Introduction

This is the official rulebook of the Atlantic Fantasy Football League for the 2011 season. It should be read by all league members. Members should also print out a copy of this rule book for future reference.

The idea behind fantasy football is that you have the opportunity to draft players from the NFL to play on your own team. For this reason, it is called "fantasy" football. You build your dream team and compete against everyone else's. In addition, throughout the season you will have the opportunity to draft, release, and acquire players for your team.

Your team will score points based on the individual performances of you players in their NFL games. The resulting total score of the players on your "starting lineup" will be compared to that of the team you have met in head-to-head matchup. The team with the highest score will win the match and a win-loss record for each team will be kept throughout the season. At the end of the regular season, the teams with the highest records will move on to play in the league playoffs for the championship.

II. Teams and League Makeup

A. Teams and Divisions

The AFFL will be made up of 12 teams making up three divisions. Teams will not change divisions unless it becomes necessary to realign the league due to expansion in the future.

B. Ownership of Teams

1. Ownership of team franchises will be granted by the League Commissioner (the "Commissioner").
2. The franchise will be granted at his discretion based on the application submitted by the prospective team owner.
3. Subject to the Commissioner's discretion, team owners may return year-to-year without filling out a new application as long as they remain in good standing with the league.

C. Changing of Ownership

1. When a new owner takes over a team previously held by another, the owner is required to rename the team and select a new team logo (except during the middle of a season).
 - a. New teams must choose a team name and logo that is dissimilar from all current and past teams.

2. The new owner will keep the same players that were on the roster of the team held by the previous owner and will take over all administrative powers of the team.

III. League Schedule

A. Regular Season

1. The regular season will be made up of 14 games spanning the first 14 games of the NFL regular season.
2. Each team will play their three divisional rivals twice during the regular season and will play all of the remaining eight teams in the league once.

B. Post-Season

1. The post season will begin in the 15th week of the NFL regular season and will continue through the 17th week.
2. Week 15 will serve as the quarterfinal round, 16 as the semifinals, and 17 as the championship week.

C. Home/Away Games

1. Each team will play 7 home and 7 away games over the course of the season.
2. In division play, one of each of the two meetings with each divisional rival will be a home game and one will be an away game.
3. Home teams will be given a "home field advantage" as defined by Rule VII(A).

IV. The Draft

A. Draft Order

1. Generally
 - a. The order of the league draft will be the reverse of the final standings after the playoffs of the previous season.
 - i. The league champion will pick last, tourney runner-up next to last, final four members ninth and tenth, etc.
 - ii. Those teams who did not earn tournament berths will be arranged in reverse order of league standings applying the tie-breaker for Regular Season league standings as necessary (See Rule IX(B) below).

- b. The draft will follow this order during odd numbered rounds, and will reverse the order during even numbered rounds.

2. 2011 AFFL Draft Order

1.	Mean Machine	(4-10)
2.	TailGators	(5-9)
3.	Raw Dawgs	(6-8)
4.	Carolina Storm	(QF, 7 th Seed)
5.	Got Stripes?	(QF, 6 th Seed)
6.	BBQBoys	(QF, 5 th Seed)
7.	Mountaineers	(QF, 1 st Seed)
8.	Texas Firebirds	(SF, 4 th Seed)
9.	Dean's Nose Guards	(SF, 3 rd Seed)
10.	Terrible Towels	(Finalist)
11.	Hotheads	(Champions)
12.	Acme Packers	(Virtual Dynasty Replacement)

3. Exceptions

The order of the draft will change for the following reasons:

- a. In the event that a team receives a new owner prior to the start of a new season, that team will lose its predetermined draft position and will be moved to the back of the line.
 - i. In the event that there is more than one team with a new owner, the teams will be arranged at the back of the line in order of the previous year's standings.
 - ii. This rule does not apply when a new owner takes over a team mid-season and returns for the next season.
- b. If a team who finishes a season ranked tenth, eleventh, or twelfth in the league standings forfeited a game during the course of the season, that team will be penalized four positions in the draft order of the next season. The team will be penalized one position in the draft order for each subsequent forfeit during the course of the season.
- c. If a team forfeits more than one game during the course of the season for any reason, the team will be penalized one position in the draft order of the next season for every game they forfeited.
- d. Rules 3.b and .c will not be applied if a team is taken over by a new owner after the end of the season in which the forfeits occurred (though the "new owner penalty" as described in Rule 3.a above will still apply).

- e. Rules 3.b and .c will not be applied if a team that has forfeited game(s) during the course of a season is taken over by a new owner mid-season after the forfeit(s) occurred, as long as the team does not forfeit another game after the change in ownership.
 - i. If the team does forfeit additional game(s), the new owner will be penalized for all forfeits incurred by the team over the course of the season.
- f. If more than one team is affected by the implementation of this rule, it will first be applied to the one closest to the last pick in the original draft order and then to each successively higher team.

B. Owner Presence

- 1. The presence of every owner is required for the draft.
- 2. The Commissioner WILL NOT draft for owners who do not attend the league draft.
- 3. All owners will be expected and required to work with the Commissioner to determine a time where every owner can be present for the draft.
- 4. If a team is not represented at the draft, it will not have any players drafted for it, and the owner will have to wait until the beginning of the regular season to pick up free agents or make trades to fill out their roster.
 - a. In that situation, normal transaction rules will apply (See Rule VI. Transactions, below)
- 5. If a team owner does not attend the draft, the owner is subject to expulsion from the league at the Commissioner's discretion.
 - a. Should an owner be expelled from the league and a new team owner takes over the team after the draft has been completed, the new owner may fill out the team's roster, subject to Rule 4 above.

C. Time, Date, and Place

The draft will be conducted over the Internet in real-time using AOL Instant Messenger. The date and time of the draft will be announced at a date closer to draft time to all owners.

D. Conducting the Draft

- 1. The draft will begin promptly at the time specified by the Commissioner. Not five minutes later, not 10 minutes later.

- a. All team owners must be online and have logged on to AOL Instant Messenger on time or risk losing draft picks.
 - b. The Commissioner will be present in the AOL I/M chat room somewhere around 30 minutes before the beginning of the draft to answer any last minute questions. When an owner logs-on, the Commissioner will invite them into the AOL I/M chat room.
2. Once the draft begins, there will be no talking by the owners.
 - a. Talking during the draft causes confusion and clutters the chat text area. Therefore, no talking, unless there is an emergency.
 - b. Please also avoid sending private instant messages to the Commissioner, as he will not have time to respond.
 - c. If a team owner continually interrupts the draft, the owner will be subject to the loss of draft picks.
3. The Commissioner will call on each team on their turn to draft.
 - a. Once called, the team will have 60 seconds to make their selection.
 - b. Timing will begin as soon as the Commissioner announces a team's name.
 - c. If the time limit is abused, the Commissioner will begin to enforce it strictly.
4. Owners are expected to pay attention during the entire draft, keeping up with who is already picked and being prepared to make picks quickly on their next turn.
 - a. If an owner attempts to draft a player who has already been selected, the commissioner will provide a warning and the owner will then have 45 seconds to make another selection.
 - b. If the owner makes another "double-pick" anytime during the rest of the draft, the owner is subject to forfeiting the pick at the Commissioner's discretion.
5. If an owner does not make a pick within the time limit or otherwise forfeits or losses a pick, they will be skipped and will not have another opportunity to make up for the lost pick during the course of the draft.
 - a. The team will have to fill the empty position on their roster either through free agent acquisitions or trades with other teams at the beginning of the regular season. Normal transaction rules will apply. (See Rule VI. Transactions, below)
6. When making a draft pick the team owner should provide (at a minimum): Player Code Number, Player Name, Position.

V. Rosters

A. Number of Players

1. A complete team roster is made up of 17 players.
2. The only minimum requirements of a roster are the ability to fulfill the starting lineup requirements (see Rule B below). Therefore, a team can have as many as 17 players, but as few as 9.

B. Starting Lineups

Starting lineups consist of 9 players.

All teams must submit a lineup that follows this makeup: 1 Quarterback (QB), 2 Running backs (RB), 1 Place Kicker (K), 1 Defensive Tackle (DT), and 4 players in any combination of Wide Receivers (WR) and Tight Ends (TE) as long as there is at least one of each in the lineup.

1. Starting Lineup Deadlines
 - a. In order for a team to start a player, that team must submit a valid lineup containing that player no later than 10 minutes before the start of that player's game.
 - i. No player contained within a lineup submitted earlier in the week may be taken out of the lineup later than 10 minutes before the start of that player's game.
 - b. The deadline for players who are on bye will be 10 minutes before the first Sunday game of the week even if there are games scheduled for earlier in the week.
 - c. Lineups for the upcoming week's game may not be submitted prior to two hours after the conclusion of the last NFL game of the week.
 - i. Teams are encouraged to submit a starting lineup early.
 - ii. If a team waits to submit a lineup at a time when the team does not have enough players on their roster still eligible to be placed in the starting lineup under Rules 1.a and b above, that team will not be allowed to submit a starting lineup for the week. No exceptions will be made.
2. Starting Lineup Submission Failures and Errors
 - a. Each team will be expected to submit a starting lineup every week.

- b. If you fail to submit a starting lineup, you will be charged with a failure to submit a lineup and the previous week's lineup will be used.
- c. Any subsequent failure to submit a lineup, will result in the team's forfeiting that week's game.
- d. If a transaction during the course of a week results in a team's lineup failing to meet lineup requirements, an owner must submit a new lineup prior to the week's lineup deadline in order to avoid forfeiting the week's game.
- e. If a team submits a starting lineup that leaves out a player or has any other error inconsistent with starting lineup requirements, the lineup will be voided.
 - i. The team will use the lineup from the previous week, and the team will be charged with a failure to submit a lineup.
 - ii. If the previous week's lineup is no longer valid (e.g., roster moves made so as to make the starting lineup incomplete), the team submits an erroneous lineup, and fails to submit a corrected lineup before the deadline for the week, the team will forfeit its game for the week.
 - iii. In addition, they will also be charged with a failure to submit a valid lineup.
- f. The Commissioner is not obligated to inform an owner that an incorrect lineup has been submitted.
- g. Starting lineups should be submitted using the forms provided on the league website.
 - i. They will only be accepted by email in an exceptional circumstance (i.e., web server down).

C. Multi-Position Players

- 1. When a team drafts a player who plays multiple positions, they must declare what position that player will fill.
- 2. After which, that player will remain associated with that position for the remainder of the season even if acquired by another team.

D. Player Retirement

- 1. Any player declared retired by the Commissioner may not be drafted or acquired through any other means by a team.

2. If a retired player is currently being held by a team, it may keep the player, but cannot place him on injury reserve.
3. If the team drops the player at any time, it may not re-acquire that player, nor may any other team.

E. Reserve

1. Generally
 - a. Each team will have one reserve position on their roster.
 - b. Any player, other than a defensive team, may be moved to the Reserve position for any reason.
 - c. To move a player to Reserve, the owner must use the “Add/Waive Form” located by clicking on the “Add/Waive Form” link on the individual team’s main Administration page on the league website to submit a transaction request.
 - d. When submitting a transaction request to place a player on Reserve, the team must either request acquisition of a free agent to fill his position on the main roster (in accordance with acquisition rules) or must activate a player currently on Reserve.
 - i. If the team seeks to acquire a free agent, but the acquisition request is unsuccessful, then no player will be placed on Reserve.
 - e. A team cannot place a player directly onto Reserve during an acquisition either by receiving the player in trade or from free agency.
 - i. All new additions to a team must be placed onto a team's main roster when acquired.
 - f. A player on Reserve may not be included in a team’s starting lineup.
2. Removal of Player from Reserve
 - a. A team may move a player off Reserve at any time, except during the period between that player’s starting lineup deadline for the current week and when transaction requests may be submitted at the start of the following week (See Rule VI(D)(1)(b), below).
 - i. If a team moves a player off Reserve prior to the player’s starting lineup deadline for a given week, it may trade that player or use him in an add/waive transaction during the current week (subject to Transaction rules as provided in Rule VI below).

F. Retaining Players from Season-to-Season

1. Keepers
 - a. The AFFL is a keeper league, meaning that teams keep players from season to season.
 - i. Teams will be asked by the Commissioner during the off-season to choose four (4) players to keep for the next season.
 - ii. This will be done after teams without owners are found new owners, but prior to the league draft.
 - iii. Teams will be allowed to trade retained players for draft picks.
2. Removing Players from Reserve before Selecting Keepers
 - a. If a team has any players on their roster on Reserve at season's end, the owner must remove those players from Reserve prior to being allowed to submit their keeper selections.
 - i. In order to remove a player from Reserve, the owner can either drop the player from their roster entirely, or the owner can drop another player from their roster so that the player on Reserve can be moved back onto the main roster.
3. Alternate Keepers
 - a. In addition to selecting four players to retain for the next season, each team will be allowed to select two additional players from their previous season's roster to serve as "alternates" to their four keepers.
 - i. Should one of the four players they select for retention retires sometime between the deadline of submitting which players are to be kept for the next season and 24 hours prior to the league draft, the owner can select an "alternate" to take his place.
 - ii. If a team receives a keeper in a trade and that player retires before the league draft, the team may replace the player with an alternate keeper.
 - iii. However, owners cannot simply switch players between the original four picks and an alternate pick.
 - (α) One of the four main selections must actually retire before an owner can use an alternate.
 - b. If an owner does not have to use an alternate, the players will be released from their team 24 hours prior to the league draft, and

will return to the pool of free agents (draftable players) just like all the other players not selected as keepers.

- c. An alternate keeper cannot be traded in pre-draft trading.
4. Failure to Submit Keepers Selections
- a. If an owner fails to submit a list of keeper players by the deadline set by the Commissioner, all the players on that team will be dropped.
 - i. The team, however, will still only receive the same number of draft picks as every other, and will be forced to acquire the remaining needed players through free-agent acquisition after the draft.
 - ii. If a team owner is replaced subsequent to failing to submit keeper selections, the new owner may, at the discretion of the Commissioner, be allowed to choose keepers if:
 - (α) The new owner makes their keeper selections within 96 hours after being provided the opportunity to do so by the Commissioner; and,
 - (β) The new owner makes their keeper selections no later than 5pm ET on the seventh day prior to the league draft.

VI. Transactions

A. Trades

1. Trading will be allowed between teams as soon as all teams declare their keepers for the following year.
 - a. Exception: Trading will not be allowed during the period between the end of pre-draft trading and the beginning of the first week of the regular season.
 - b. Trades made during the pre-season will be processed upon their completion.
2. You may not trade a player you have placed on Reserve.
 - a. You may, however, remove the player from Reserve and then trade him away; meaning, you may be required to drop a player from your main roster before completing the trade.
3. There are no limits to the number of trades you may make in a week.
4. To make a trade, all of the owners involved in a trade must email the Commissioner prior to the deadline (see Rule E. Deadlines, below) advising him of the proposed trade.

- a. An email from only one owner will not be accepted.
5. Once both teams submit their proposals, a trade agreement cannot be rescinded.
6. If one owner sends a confirmation message to the Commissioner prior to the deadline, and the other sends one after the deadline, the trade will not be processed the following week.
 - a. If the owners want the trade to be processed the following week, each owner must again send a confirmation email to the Commissioner.
7. Uneven trades are allowed except when the trade will cause a violation of roster and/or starting lineup requirements.
8. If a team trades away more players than they receive in a deal, the team may submit an add/waive request(s) to fill the vacancy on their roster created by the deal during the same transaction period (in absence of other roster moves and transaction rules that might make such a move impossible). All other transaction rules apply as normal.
9. Any trade which causes a team to violate starting lineup requirements in the absence of other roster moves will be rejected.
10. To trade draft picks, the owners must declare which round(s)'s draft picks are involved in the trade.
 - a. Trading for undetermined draft picks will not be allowed.
 - b. If a team has multiple draft picks in a round, the team owner must identify which pick from the round they intend to trade (i.e., whether the team's original pick or a pick received in a prior trade with another team).
11. No trades will be allowed after the conclusion of Week 12.
12. The Commissioner may reject a trade deal at any time and for any reason.
13. Trades will be posted once both owners have submitted their confirmation and the League Commissioner has had an opportunity to review and process the trade request.

B. Pre-Draft Trading

1. Generally
 - a. Pre-Draft Trading will be allowed **ONLY** after all the teams have declared which players they will keep for the next season.
 - b. Trading prior to the draft may be uneven.
 - c. However, no extra rounds will be added to the draft to enable teams to pick up extra players.

- d. Teams who have fewer than 17 players after the draft as a result of uneven pre-draft trading must wait until the first transaction period begins to complete their rosters.
 2. Trading of Current Draft Picks
 - a. There are no restrictions to how many and which picks a team may use in a trade deal involving draft picks for the 2011 season.
 - b. Teams who make trades that give them more draft picks than necessary to fill their roster during the draft can, of course, use those extra draft picks to make other uneven trades.
 - c. However, if they keep the extra draft picks, they will only be allowed to draft until they have completed a roster of 17 players, but if they should, for any reason, be skipped in a round of the draft, they can use one of those extra draft picks to compensate.
 3. Pre-Draft Trading Deadline
 - a. Trades made during the pre-draft trading period must be given to the Commissioner by 5pm on the seventh day prior to the league draft. Trades after this date will not be accepted.

C. Trading of Future Draft Picks

1. A team may trade picks from the 2012 draft.
 - a. Teams may make trades involving 2012 draft picks in both the 2011 season's pre-season and regular season periods.
2. No team may trade away more than a total of four picks from their pool of draft choices for the 2012 draft.
 - a. Alternatively, no team, as a result of trading 2012 draft picks, may have fewer than nine remaining picks for the 2012 draft (meaning you can remain within the limit of four tradable picks if you receive other team's 2012 draft picks as a result of a trade).
3. No team may trade away more than two of their first four rounds of picks for the 2012 draft.
 - a. Unlike Rules 2-2.a above, you may not get around this restriction by receiving other team's 2012 draft picks from the first four or other rounds.
4. If you receive future draft picks from another team as a result of a trade, you may use those picks to make additional trades assuming you remain within the terms of the Rules VI (A), (B), and (C).
5. If a league owner does not return to the league next season, the replacement owner is bound to the terms of any trade made during the

previous season involving future draft picks as if he had made the trade deal himself.

6. Trades involving "future" draft picks can only utilize picks from the 2012 season.

D. Acquisitions/Waivers

1. Generally
 - a. Acquisition and/or Waiver requests can be made from first week of the regular season throughout the entire fantasy season (including the tournament).
 - b. Acquisition/waiver requests may not be submitted prior to 2 hours after the NFL's final game for the prior week.
 - i. Requests submitted after a week's deadline will not be held for the next week's processing.
 - ii. Requests sent before the allowed time will not be accepted and will be discarded.
 - iii. Because it is the owner's responsibility to be aware of the league's rules, the Commissioner is not obligated to inform the owner of these violations.
 - c. Acquisition and/or waiver requests will only be accepted using the forms provided on the league website.
 - i. At no time will they be accepted by an email from the owner.
 - d. There is no limit to the number of acquisition and/or waiver requests you may make in a week.
 - e. Once a team's season is over they may no longer make acquisition or waiver requests.
2. Processing Acquisition Requests
 - a. First Round
 - i. The Commissioner will hold all requests for acquisitions and waivers from the start of the week until the respective week's first round deadline.
 - ii. Requests submitted during the first round may be modified or deleted at any time up until the first round deadline.
 - (α) Modifications and deletions may only be made using the 'Review/Modify Transaction Requests' option on the team's add/waive form on the league website.

- iii. The commissioner will process requests in reverse order of league standings (in case of a tie in records, overall points will be used as a tie-break).
 - (α) The transaction order during the pre-season will be the same as the draft order.
 - iv. The team with the worst record in the league to have submitted a request will have its request processed first.
 - v. After its request is processed (whether the team successively acquires a player or not), the next team in the transaction order to have submitted a request will have its request processed.
 - vi. This process will continue until all requests have been exhausted.
 - vii. Only one request per team will be processed at a time before moving down to the next team in the transaction order.
 - viii. If a team makes multiple requests, the requests will be processed based on their priority order.
 - (α) By default, requests' priority order will be the order in which they were submitted.
 - (β) A team may re-prioritize the order in which it wants its add/waive requests processed using the 'Review/Modify Transaction Requests' option on the team's add/waive form on the league website.
- b. Second Round
- i. After the deadline for the first round passes and first round transaction requests have been processed, the second round will begin.
 - ii. During the second round, teams' add/waive requests will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - iii. A player may be added to or waived from a team's roster during the second round any time until the respective player's starting lineup deadline for the week. (See Rule V.B.1 above)

E. Deadlines

- 1. For weeks where the NFL has scheduled the earliest games for Sundays, the deadline for submitting trade proposals and first round

acquisition/waiver requests is 9pm ET on the Friday preceding the week's games.

2. For weeks where the NFL has scheduled the earliest games for Saturdays, the deadline for submitting trade proposals and first round acquisition/waiver requests is 9pm ET on the Thursday preceding the week's games.
3. For weeks where the NFL has scheduled the earliest games for Fridays, the deadline for submitting trade proposals and first round acquisition/waiver requests is 10pm ET on the Wednesday preceding the week's games.
4. For weeks where the NFL has scheduled the earliest games for Thursdays or earlier, the deadline for submitting trade proposals and first round acquisition/waiver requests is 10pm ET on the Tuesday preceding the week's games.

VII. Scoring

A. Home Field Advantage

The home team of each game will be given a 3 point bonus.

B. Offensive Scoring

1. Touchdowns will earn 6 points.
2. Passing Yardage will earn 1 point for every 25 yards starting at 25 yards.
3. Rushing Yardage will earn 1 point for every 10 yards starting at 10 yards.
4. Receiving Yardage will earn 1 point for every 8 yards starting at 8 yards.
 - a. TEs, however, will receive 1 point for every 7 yards starting at 7 yards.
5. Completions: 1 point for every 4 completions starting with the 4th.
6. Carries: 1 point for every 7 carries starting with the 7th.
7. Receptions: 1 point for every 2 receptions starting with the 2nd.
 - a. The score for TEs will be determined by dividing the number of their receptions by 1.5 and then rounding down to the nearest whole number.
 - i. For example, 2 receptions will earn 1 point ($2/1.5 = 1.33$; and then round down to 1); 3 receptions will earn 2 points ($3/1.5 = 2$); 6 receptions will earn 4 points ($6/1.5 = 4$); and, 7 receptions will earn 4 points ($7/1.5 = 4.67$; and then round down to 4).
8. There will be a three (3) point deduction for every thrown interception.

9. There will be a three (3) point deduction for every lost fumble.
 - a. If a player loses a fumble on a kick/punt return and such a fumble is scored against the player, a team may appeal the score and have the points added back to the player's total.

C. Defensive/Special Teams Scoring

1. Defensive and Return Touchdowns will earn 6 points.
2. Yards Allowed (rushing and passing combined)

0	-	150 Yards	=	15 Points
151	-	175 Yards	=	12
176	-	200 Yards	=	10
201	-	225 Yards	=	8
226	-	250 Yards	=	6
251	-	275 Yards	=	4
276	-	300 Yards	=	2
301	-	325 Yards	=	1
326	-	350 Yards	=	0
351	-	375 Yards	=	-1
376	-	400 Yards	=	-2
401	-	425 Yards	=	-3
426	-	450 Yards	=	-4
451	-	475 Yards	=	-5
476	-	500 Yards	=	-6
501	-	525 Yards	=	-8
526	-	550 Yards	=	-10
551	-	575 Yards	=	-12
576	-	1000 Yards	=	-20

3. Offensive Points Allowed

0 Points	=	10 Points
1	-	3 Points = 8
4	-	6 Points = 5
7	-	9 Points = 3
10	-	13 Points = 2
14	-	17 Points = 1
18	-	21 Points = 0
22	-	24 Points = -1
25	-	28 Points = -2
29	-	35 Points = -4
36	-	42 Points = -6
43	-	48 Points = -9
49	-	60 Points = -12
61	-	72 Points = -15
73 +		Points = -30

4. 1 Point will be scored for each quarterback sack.
5. 3 Points will be scored for each interception.
6. 3 Points will be scored for each fumble recovered.
7. 3 Points will be scored for each blocked field goal.
8. 2 Points will be scored for each blocked punt.
9. 2 Points will be scored for each blocked extra point.
10. 4 Points will be scored for each safety.

D. Field Goal and Point-After-Touchdown Scoring

1. A successful Two Point Conversion will score 2 points.
2. A successful Extra Point Field Goal will score 1 point.
3. A missed Extra Point attempt will cost a player 2 points.
4. Field goals will be scored as follows:
 - 1 - 35 Yards = 3 Points
 - 36 - 45 Yards = 4
 - 46 - 55 Yards = 5
 - 56 - 100 Yards = 6
5. **Missed** field goals will be scored as follows:
 - 1 - 25 Yards = -4 Points
 - 26 - 35 Yards = -3
 - 36 - 45 Yards = -1
 - 46 - 100 Yards = 0

VIII. The Playoffs

A. Playoff Qualifications

1. The playoffs will be made up of 8 teams.
2. Three positions in the playoffs will be given to each division's champion.
 - a. A divisional championship is given to the team with the best overall league record in its respective division.
3. The remaining five spots are wild-cards.
 - a. They will be given to the teams with the top five regular season records not including the divisional champions.
4. In case of a tie for a playoff berth, tie-breaker rules will apply (see Rule IX. Tie-Breaker Rules, below).

B. Seeding

1. The seeding of the playoffs will be determined by overall regular season record.
2. Divisional champions will be given no preference in seeding.
3. In the event of a tie for a particular seeding, tie-breaker rules will be applied (see Rule IX(D), below).

C. Format of the playoffs

1. Quarterfinals
 - a. #1 seed *vs.* #8 seed
 - b. #4 seed *vs.* #5 seed
 - c. #3 seed *vs.* #6 seed
 - d. #2 seed *vs.* #7 seed
2. Semifinals
 - a. 1/8 quarterfinal winner *vs.* 4/5 quarterfinal winner
 - b. 3/6 quarterfinal winner *vs.* 2/7 quarterfinal winner
3. Super Bowl
 - a. 1/8 *vs.* 4/5 semifinal winner *vs.* 3/6 *vs.* 2/7 semifinal winner
4. The higher seeded team in each playoff game will play as the home team.

IX. Tie-Breaker Rules

A. Individual Games

1. During the Regular Season
 - a. No tie-breaker method will be used to determine winners in the event of a tie.
 - b. In the event a team ends a game in a tie, the game will be recorded as a tie.
 - i. For purposes of determining the team's winning percentage, it will count as one-half of a win and one-half of a loss.
2. During the Playoffs
 - a. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by using the aggregate score of each team's non-starting portion of their respective rosters.

- i. If this should fail to break the tie, the home team will be given the victory.
- ii. The winner of the tie-breaker will be awarded one point to their final score to signify the victory.

B. Regular Season League Standings

During the regular season in the event of equal records to determine league standings overall points scored then a coin toss will be used.

C. To Break a Tie within a Division

1. The divisional title is awarded to the team in each division with the best overall league record.
2. In the event of a tie for a divisional title (and hence an automatic berth to the tournament), the following steps will be used to break the tie:
 - a. Two Clubs
 - i. Divisional Record
 - ii. Head-to-Head Record
 - iii. Head-to-Head Scoring
 - iv. Overall Points
 - v. Divisional Points
 - vi. Each team will share the division title
 - (α) However, if the division tie-Breaker is used to determine a playoff berth or seeding, this step will use a coin toss.
 - b. Three or More Clubs

NOTE: If two clubs remain tied after second step or other clubs are eliminated during any step, tie breaker reverts to first step of the two-club format.

- i. Divisional Record
- ii. Head-to-Head Sweep (Applicable only if one club has defeated each of the others or if one club has lost to each of the others)
- iii. Head-to-Head Record (best won-loss-tied percentage in games among the clubs)
- iv. Overall Points
- v. Divisional Points

D. To Break a Tie for a Wild-Card Berth or Playoff Seeding

1. If it is necessary to break ties to determine the wild-card teams in the playoffs or to determine playoff seeding, the following steps will be taken to break the tie:

NOTE: If the tied clubs are from the same division, apply the division tie-breaker. If the tied clubs are from different divisions, apply the following steps.

- a. Two Clubs
 - i. Head-to-Head Record
 - ii. Overall Points
 - iii. Record against all set playoff teams higher than the position being sought
 - iv. Record against divisional champs (only if neither team is the champ of its division)
 - v. Coin Toss
- b. Three or More Clubs

NOTE: If two clubs remain tied after second step or other clubs are eliminated during any step, tie breaker reverts to the first step of the two-club format.

- i. Apply division tie-breaker to eliminate all but the highest ranked club in each division prior to proceeding to the next step.
 - (α) The original seeding within a division upon application of the division tie-breaker remains the same for all subsequent applications of the procedure that are necessary to identify Wild-Card teams or seed teams with playoff berths
- ii. Head-to-Head Sweep (Applicable only if one club has defeated each of the others or if one club has lost to each of the others)
- iii. Head-to-Head Record (best won-loss-tied percentage in games among the clubs)
- iv. Overall Points
- v. Record against all set playoff teams higher than the position being sought
- vi. Record against divisional champs (only if neither team is the champ of its division)

vii. Coin Toss

E. Other Tie-Breaker Rules

1. Only one club advances or is eliminated from a tie-breaker in any tie-breaking step.
2. Remaining tied clubs revert to the first step of the applicable division or Wild-Card tie-breaker.

X. Powers of the League Commissioner

A. The Commissioner

The Commissioner is responsible for both managing the league and the league's website. This takes a great deal of time to accomplish, and due to the short time frame between games, pressure is added by the need to stick to deadlines. For this reason, please be patient when you submit starting lineups, waiver, trade, and acquisition requests, or ask questions via email.

B. Owner Participation

1. Owner participation is necessary in order for the season to be successful.
2. Owners will be expected to participate actively in the league.
3. You must submit starting lineups for your team even if you do not plan to change the lineup.
4. If the Commissioner hears nothing from an owner for three consecutive weeks without prior explanation, he has the right expel the owner from the league.

C. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. If during the course of the season, pre-season, or post-season an owner conducts himself in a way judged by the Commissioner as unsportsmanlike, the Commissioner has the right to sanction that owner and/or his team.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct may also include specific violations of the league rules.
3. The Commissioner alone determines what actions are "unsportsmanlike,"
4. Sanctions for unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited, to the following:
 - a. Deductions from overall and divisional points totals
 - b. Loss of trading privileges for a specified or indeterminate period

- c. Loss of waiver wire privileges for a specified or indeterminate period
 - d. Loss of position in the waiver wire order
 - e. Forced waiving of players
 - f. Retrospective rejection of trades, with the possibility of forfeits declared for any affected games
 - g. Loss of future draft picks
 - h. Owner suspension, with their team forfeiting games for the length of the suspension
 - i. Any combination of sanctions deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.
5. A team owner who is penalized because of unsportsmanlike conduct may appeal to the other owners for a reprieve of any punishment handed down other than expulsion from the league/termination of team ownership.
 - a. In order for the appeal to be successful, seven owners excluding the offending owner(s) must independently email the Commissioner within 72 hours that the cited owner should be granted a reprieve of the Commissioner's decision, otherwise the penalty will stand.
6. If an owner is cited more than once for unsportsmanlike conduct during the course of the season, no appeals will be allowed.

D. Termination of Team Ownership

In the event that a team owner intentionally breaks the rules set forth in this document, or plays the game in a spirit inconsistent in the manner in which the league was founded, the Commissioner has the right to terminate ownership of a team. If the Commissioner expels an owner from the league for any reason, no appeals will be allowed.

E. Appeals for Scoring Errors

1. It is the responsibility of team owners to review their team's scores each week for errors. This is especially true during the first week or two of the season when there may be bugs in the league's scoring system.
2. All appeals for reviewing possible errors made in scoring must be submitted to the Commissioner within 72 hours of that particular week's results being posted on the web.
 - a. No appeals will be accepted after that time, nor will any change be made to any team's score that resulted from such an error.

3. The Commissioner retains the right to initiate appeals for and reviews of potential scoring errors without an owner submitting an appeal of their score.
 - a. Furthermore, if the Commissioner finds a scoring error occurred in one game, he may initiate reviews of all scores for the week.
 - b. As above, all reviews must be initiated within 72 hours after the final results for the week are posted.

F. Rule Re-Evaluation

1. From time to time, a situation may arise in which the rules, as written, may lend themselves to harming the position of a team in a way for which they were not meant to do when written.
2. If such a situation arises, the Commissioner has the right to re-evaluate the league rules to determine whether the situation at hand is such that the intent of the rules when they were written cannot be upheld because the literal interpretation would lend itself to the contrary.
3. If so, the Commissioner may forego the rules as written and apply the rule's intent.
4. If the Commissioner comes to such a decision, he must inform the other league owners by email; explaining the situation, the decision to forego the rule in question, and the reasoning for making such a decision.
5. League owners who believe that the situation in question does not warrant a reevaluation of the league rules must inform the Commissioner within 24 hours.
 - a. If three (3) league owners independently send a message to the Commissioner stating that they do not believe the rule should be forgone, the Commissioner's decision will be overruled.
 - i. If not, the Commissioner's decision will be final.

G. Rulebook Gaps

1. In the event that a situation should arise in which no effective solution can be found due to ambiguities in the league rules, the Commissioner has the right to use his own discretion to resolve the issue.
2. That decision must then be followed consistently for any situation of significant similarity for the remainder of the season.