



Red Rose League

Official 2026 By-Laws Red Rose Midget Football League

Article I Name and Object

Section 1 - Name

The name of this organization shall be the "Red Rose Midget Football League."

Section 2 - Object

The purpose of this league is to set up a program of supervised football for players, with the following objectives:

1. Character
2. Citizenship
3. Church and Family
4. Culture and Scholastic Achievement
5. Thrift and Financial Independence
6. Mental and Physical Health
7. Sportsmanship

Article II Membership

Section 1 - Members

This league shall be composed of midget football teams located in Lancaster City ,Lancaster County and adjoining counties.(February 2007)

Section 2 - Admission Requirements

The following are the requirements that must be met and maintained for a team to be admitted to and participate in this league.

1. Admission to the league must be by application, in writing to the league prior to the annual meeting.
2. A team seeking admission must be able to demonstrate its ability to furnish its members the equipment, except footwear, set forth in Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.
3. League Officers shall investigate the ability of the team making application to properly equip their teams, and will report to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
4. Admission of a new team or teams will be by two-thirds approval of those directors present at such meeting where proposed new members are presented for approval.

5. The deadline for announcing intentions to remain in the league is to be at the annual meeting, first Sunday in February (or date announced for current year). At that time each member will state the number of teams ("A","B","C","D") they will field.
6. Admission for membership in this league and continuing eligibility in this league will be predicated on the ability of an organization to field three eligible teams ("A","B","C") in addition to meeting the previously set forth requirements for admission under this article.
7. In the event a certain level team, "A","B","C", or "D" must discontinue their season, after the league schedule has been instituted, that level team ("A", "B", "C", or "D") must forfeit all previous games won. This will not affect any other level team in that organization which is still fielding a legal team.

Article III

Government

Section 1 – Government

Government of the league shall be vested in a Board of Directors. This Board may as deemed necessary adopt guidelines, directives, and codes concerning persons or groups involved with this league.

Example: directors, coaches, players, etc.

Section 2 – Members of the Board

The Board of Directors will be composed of a representative of each team holding a membership in the league; with each team being entitled to one vote. The Board of Directors shall elect a President, who may represent their team; and a Commissioner, who need not be a Board Member. A vacancy in any of these offices will be filled at a special election by the Board of Directors until the annual meeting, with the exception of the President. Any Board member, officer, or the Commissioner may serve as a coach of any team. (Feb. 2003)

Annually, the Board of Directors will elect a Committee Chairperson to lead committees such as Coach's Ethics or other such committees as appropriate. (February 2007)

Creation of Competition and Outreach/Recruitment Committee (March 2026)

Section 3 – Terms of Office

The Commissioner shall be elected to a term of (3) three years. All other officers shall be elected to terms of (1) one year in duration.

Section 4 - Directors and Alternative Directors

Each member team will be represented at a league meeting by a Director or an Alternate Director. Each team will, however, have only one vote. Failure to be represented at league meetings will result in a \$25.00 fine being assessed to the sponsoring organization for each missed meeting. Any team not represented at the annual meeting will be fined \$50.00.

Section 5 – President

The President/Commissioner shall supervise all officers and preside at all meetings, with the exception of Protest Committee proceedings; at which time the Commissioner shall be the presiding officer.

Section 6 – Treasurer / Commissioner

The Treasurer shall receive all monies or other property donated to the league, and disperses said funds as and when directed by the majority of the Board of Directors. He shall keep a true accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, and shall submit a financial report at all meetings.

Section 7 – Commissioner / Treasurer

The Commissioner shall supervise the program; designate dates, times, and places of all of all events and contests; handle all other matters pertaining to the position of Program Director. Upon completion of the league schedule, he will submit it to the Board of Directors for approval prior to its official release. The Commissioner shall have the authority, with a three man committee composed of team Directors appointed by him, to carry out provisions of these By-Laws and the Constitution and impose penalties and fines as provided hereafter. There shall be no appeal from the decision of this committee. The Commissioner and duly elected league officers shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of these By-Laws and impose such penalties as deemed necessary.

Section 8 – Quorum

A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9 – Amendments to By-Laws

League By-Laws can only be changed at the annual meeting. (This does not affect emergency waivers). Article V, Section 8 may not be waived at any time by Board vote February 1, 1987, meeting. Emergency waivers must pass by a 3/4 margin of the Directors present.

When voting on By-Law or rule changes that affect only the "D" team level, only those organizations that have fielded at least one "D" team in the last three seasons shall be included in determining the number of votes required to pass the related motion and be eligible to vote on the motion.

All By-Law changes made should be dated in their proper location, making future reference easier to discuss. (February 1998)

Section 10– Required Vote to Amend By-Laws

A majority vote of all Directors present is necessary to amend the By-Laws and Constitution. (February 2002)

A vote of 2/3 of consenting directors present is necessary to amend the by-laws and Constitution. In a league of 20 organizations, a vote of 13.3 (rounded up to 14) is needed to change a by-law. (February 2004)

Section 11 – Changes in Article V Sections 2 & 3

Changes made to Article V, Sections 2 & 3 when changed must stay the same for a period of three years.
(Last Change, February 2013)

Section 12 – Fan’s Code of Conduct

Each organization must distribute, announce, or otherwise make available on game day, a Fan’s Code of Ethics during A, B, C, and D games. The following is a sample code of ethics and may be altered to the organization’s preference.

The (team) welcomes and encourages the active participation of all parents and fans. We realize that there would not be a (team) football organization if it wasn't for the tireless efforts and dedication of our parents and volunteers. The coaches and team representatives work very hard at practice and games, however running and maintaining a successful organization requires your efforts as fans as well.

During the games today, we encourage positive cheering for not only your child but the entire team and coaching staff. Remember, the behavior of our parents directly affects our team and our organization’s image in general. With this in mind, parents and fans are reminded that any unacceptable behavior will result in your suspension and quite possibly your child being suspended from the team. The following offenses are restricted during today’s event:

- 1. Fighting is not allowed.**
- 2. Coaching from the stands is not allowed.**
- 3. Referees must be treated with respect and negative criticism is unethical.**

(February 2008)

Red Rose League/ Parent Code of Ethics. Any parent found to be threatening an official will be removed from the event. (stoppage of play). If the parent or spectator of the respective team refuses to leave, that team will forfeit the game. (February 2010)

Article IV Meetings

Section 1 – Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and election of officers of this league shall be held on the first Sunday in February unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall mail a written notice of this date, time, and place of the annual meeting to each Director at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting. Officers elected at such meeting will take office immediately following the adjournment of such meeting.

A meeting will be held as soon as the season ends for the purpose of discussing By-Law changes.

(February 22, 1998)

Section 2 – Special Meetings

A special meeting of the league will be held at the call of the President, Commissioner, or upon request of any Board member submitted to the Secretary. At least (5) five days notice of such meeting will be required. Notice of meetings must be in writing.

Article V

Player Eligibility Requirements

Section 1 – Player Contracts

Each player shall sign a player agreement (contract) in duplicate. One (1) copy of the agreement shall be on file with the Commissioner, and one (1) copy on file with the player's team. To be a legal player said paper must be in the files of the Commissioner. Any team that plays a player and/or players and said player or players does not have a properly filled out and signed league contract on file with the Commissioner shall forfeit the game or games in which the player or players have participated. Any player that signs a contract with a given team must remain with that team throughout the current season. A team may not add a new player after the third week of the season. New contracts must be handed into the Commissioner one (1) hour prior to the game time.

Players who have signed a contract but are looking to change teams prior to season start must have an official release form completed by the releasing organization. This will be submitted with the player contract for the new team. (March 2025)

Each director must also give a complete list of players by team with the following information: name of player and mailing address. (February 1997)

Section 2 – Age Limits

Each eligible player must be between the ages of seven years (7) old as of June 1, and fourteen (14) years of age. "A" team fourteen (14) years of age as of June 1. "B" team twelve (12) years of age as of June 1. "C" team ten (10) years of age as of June 1. "D" team seven (7) years of age as of September 1. Proof of date of birth shall be determined by birth certificate or baptismal record presented at the time of registration. Any other proof must be submitted to the Commissioner for approval. (Feb. 2020)

D team date changed to 9/1 (Sept. 2023) (Permanently adopted March 2024)

Nobody under seven (7) years of age will be permitted to practice in the Red Rose League. (March 2016)

Section 3 – Age And Weight Combinations For Team Eligibility

No player shall weigh more than the following, including equipment (excluding helmet and shoulder pads) as hereinafter provided. This includes the shoes that the player will wear while participating in the game.

	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Ages</u>
"A" Team	165 pounds	10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 (March 2019)
"B" Team	145 pounds	8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 (March 2019)
"C" Team	120 pounds	8, 9, and 10 (March 2019)
"D" Team	100 pounds	7, 8 (March 2019)

Weight increases: Added weight to A,B,C and D levels during League game season in 1lb steps.
Week 2 thru week 9 (March 2026)

Seven year old players only eligible to play on D Team ONLY. (March 2018)

Striper Rule: Unlimited player weight at all levels for down lineman.

1.Player must weigh in prior to each league game.

2.Player must have 2" yellow strip across back of helmet.

Stripe must also be on the outside of helmet guards/caps (March 2025)

3.Players number must be given to officials.

4.Player: Offensive player must be on interior line and hand in the dirt. (center, guard, tackle)

5.Player: Defensive player must be on interior line and hand in the dirt. (nose guard, tackle). Can't line up Outside O tackle.

6.Player: Can't be on kickoff or kick return teams.

7.Player: Can be on punt and punt return teams.

8.Player: Can't advance a fumble or interception.

9.Player: Striper rule in effect for "JV" games.

Penalty for Striper violation—15 yard penalty after warning (March 2025)

If section 3 is changed in any way, section 3 cannot be changed again for three years.

(February 2000)

Section 3 last changed: (March 2026)

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Section 4 – Required Equipment

Full safety equipment shall be required for each boy and shall consist of the following:

1. Helmet with face mask: helmets must meet with manufacturer's and/or re-conditioner's guidelines.
2. Jersey.
3. Footwear, including molded football shoes or sneakers.

No player may wear shoes with detachable or metal cleats. (February 2003)

4. Shoulder Pads.
5. Football pants with proper thigh, hip, rear and knee pads or body suits.

6. Approved Colored Mouthpieces, (March 2019)

7. Section 5 – Weigh-In

There shall be only one (1) weigh - in per player, the proper equipment for weigh - in is as follows: game pants, game jersey, girdle pads or body suits, thigh pads, knee pads, and game (February 1997) shoes, (full length jerseys must be tucked in the players pants). (A player shall be allowed to wear a rib vest, sweat shirt or thermal underwear after weigh - in). The weigh – in shall take place during the half time of the previous game. For "B", halftime of the "C" game, for "A", halftime of the "B" game. Sunday games will be in reverse order. At weigh - in, the Director will exchange official team rosters. Such rosters will indicate player's names and jersey numbers in numerical order from low to high.

Weigh-ins conducted by Director, asst. Director, or head coach (March 2019)

Weigh-In must be made by game time unless agreed upon by both directors. (February 2003)

Player will not miss weigh-in on Sunday (first game only) must be there by halftime. (March 2019)

1. "A" team roster should be listed in numerical order.
2. "B" team roster should be listed in numerical order.
3. "C" team roster should be listed in numerical order.
4. "D" team roster should be listed in numerical order.

As each player steps on the scale for his official weigh - in, he will state his name and jersey number. The Commissioner may appoint any league officer or duly appointed representatives to conduct unannounced pre-game weigh-ins. The person conducting such unannounced weigh-ins shall carry on his person and present on demand, a letter of authorization signed by the Commissioner. The letter of authorization shall also include the names of the opposing teams.

Directors do not have to allow a player a second weigh-in, after failing a first. (February 2005)

Only team directors or their alternates will conduct pre-game weigh-ins. No other people may be present; exception being any league officers invited as an observer. If director is not going to be available for weigh-ins, an alternate should be specified to the other team director prior to the game weigh-in. The exception to this would be unannounced pre-game weigh-in conducted by a duly appointed representative as previously provided. If a player does not meet the weight requirements, he may not play in that game. If a director needs assistance in conducting a weigh-in, he should contact the Commissioner to arrange a spot check from the league office. Home teams must stay in their practice area or designated area while visiting team weighs in.

The weigh-in scale can't be moved during weigh-ins. If moved, it must be placed back in previous spot. Both teams will weigh-in with the scale in the same spot. (March 2006)

No opposing coach shall question players after their director or league official has conducted weigh-ins. (February 2003)

Weigh-ins: All players must be properly equipped according to RRFL rules.

Penalty: 1. \$100.00 fine (head coach) and head coach must sit out next game. (Feb. 2020)

Section 6 – Parental Consent And Physical Examination

Each player must have written consent of his parents or guardian. Each player shall have a physical examination report from his physician prior to said players first practice.

Section 7 – Player Disqualification and Restrictions

Any player who plays for a scholastic football team during any season shall be ineligible to compete in the Red Rose Midget Football League during that season. If a player voluntarily quits or is released prior to the first game, the player's eligibility must be cleared with the scholastic coach. No player shall play in more than one (1) game a weekend. That player may play in either an "A", "B", or "C" game, but shall under no circumstances participate in more than one (1) game, regardless of the amount of time played in one game. After the third game of the season has been played, no player may be transferred from an "A" team to a "B" team or from a "B" team to a "C" team, and thereafter must continue to play on the "A" or "B" team for the balance of the season. No player at any level (A,B,C,D) may move up or down to participate in a playoff game.

(February 2013)

If an official ejects a player from a game, he/she will sit out the next game. Penalty will carry over to the next season and into playoffs. (February 2003)

Ejected Players must be present on the sidelines of one game before being able to participate in another game. (March 2023)

Section 8 – Size of Squad

Each squad must be composed of at least fourteen (14) players at the start of the game, all of which must make weight and all of which must be fully uniformed, in accordance with PIAA rules. Otherwise the game must be forfeited. (Feb. 2020)

This by-law can be waived by participating organizations. Player participation not mandatory. (March 2018)

Section 9 – League Team Structure

The Red Rose Midget Football League will allow current league member teams, per approval during the annual proposal and via subsequent voting during the Red Rose League annual meeting, to enter an additional team (B, C, & D levels) into the Red Rose League. The new team will fall under the same directorship of the existing organization and will abide by all of the same rules and regulations set forth in the bylaws of the Red Rose League. The new team will have its own roster of players that will be set before the beginning of the season. The names of those players, once submitted to the league, will not be commingled with the names of the players of the existing team.

Organizations with split teams will be allowed movement of players until the second game of the season. They will only move a maximum of 4 players and only from Section three to Section one. (not sect. 1 to sect. 3)

(February 2009)

Organizations splitting teams, can split with only one team within the organization (March 2017)

For an organization to split teams (A,B,C,D) they must have a minimum of 35 players on a roster.

(March 2023)

Organizations that have split teams, must split them evenly (numbers only and not talent).

(February 2010)

Section III (2023)

Section 3 will be deemed developmental during the 2023 season. The Section 3 Championship will be scrapped. Section 3 will play in section games and out of section games against JV teams from Sections 1 and 2.

Section 3 will be disbanded. Two league sections will play the league schedule. (March 2025)

2026 Section Realignment:

- **RRFL will utilize PIAA Classification to determine Section Alignment:**
 - **PIAA Classification Guidelines/Requirements for 2026-27 School Year:**
 - **Enrollment Requirements:**
<https://www.piaa.org/schools/classifications/requirements.aspx>
 - **PIAA Classification Parameters:**
<http://www.piaa.org/news/details.aspx?ID=4533>
 - The above links will be referenced in RRFL ByLaws for clarity and central point of reference for determining section alignment.
 - RRFL will follow same 2-Year Cycle for Realignment as PIAA
 - **Voluntary Play-Up & Competitive Balance Formula (TBD) will be applied during alignment/realignment cycle as it does for PIAA**
 - **Section 3 Promotion Criteria:**
 - **If Section 3 Wildcard Team wins a Wildcard game over the #4 Seed from Section 1 or Section 2, they will have the option to promote into the Section of their Wildcard Opponent, replacing the 6th Ranked Team in that Section**
 - **Section 3 Wildcards will only be able to promote into Section 1 or 2 to replace the 6th ranked team if that Sections 6th ranked team does not have a representative in the playoffs at either B-Team or C-Team**

2026-27 Section Alignment - 3 Sections

2026 Section Alignment - w/ 2026-27 Enrollment Data		
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Lancaster Rec (AAAAAA-1289)	Elizabethtown (AAAAAA-544)	Garden Spot (AAAAAA-418)
Hempfield (AAAAAA-927)	Conestoga Valley (AAAAAA-531)	Donegal (AAAAA-393)
Manheim Twp (AAAAAA-776)	Warwick (AAAAAA-481)	Octorara (AAAAA-310)
Cedar Crest (AAAAAA-714)	Solanco (AAAAAA-433)	Columbia (AA-199)
Penn Manor (AAAAAA-698)	Manheim Central (AAAAAA-413)	Lancaster Catholic (AA-152)
Ephrata (AAAAAA-575)	Lampeter Strasburg (AAAAA-397)	

- **Schedule - Regular & Post-Season:**
 - **8-Week Regular Season Schedule (All games count for playoffs)**
 - **Section 1-2:**
 - 5 Section Games
 - 3 Cross-Section Games
 - Cross-Section Games:
 - Section 1-2 will be stack ranked/seeded 1-6 based upon strength of cumulative record from previous season (B-Team & C-Team Only)
 - 1-3 Seed from Section 1 will play 1-3 Seed from Section 2 in Cross-Section Games
 - 4-6 Seed from Section 1 will play 4-6 Seed from Section 2 in Cross-Section Games
 - **Section 3:**
 - 8 Section Games
 - Home/Away Format (Each team will play a home and away game against each section opponent)
 - **4-Week Post Season Schedule (Wildcard, Divisional, Conference, Championship)**
 - Section 1 & 2: 6 Auto-Qualifiers (#1-3 Seeds get Wildcard as Bye Week)
 - Section 1 & 2: 2 Wildcards (#4 Seed from Section 1-2 will play in Wildcard Game)
 - Section 3: 2 Wildcards (#1-2 Seeds will play in Wildcard Game)

Article VI League Games

Section 1 – Schedules

The Commissioner shall do all scheduling, both for regular and post-season playoffs. In the event of postponed games, the Commissioner is authorized to set the date, time, and place for rescheduling games. All other games including non-league games must be cleared through the Commissioner so as not to conflict with league activities.

Once finalized at the League Playoff meeting the Playoff schedule may only be changed by vote of qualifying playoff teams. (March 2026)

Section 2 – Length of Season

The first full contact day of practice will take place on the third Monday before Labor Day. Organizations must have three days of heat acclimation practices prior to contact. These heat acclimation practices may be held the week before the third Monday before Labor day. There will be no organized contact on these three days. (March 2025)

Start Football Activities first Monday in August (March 2026)

League games and playoffs shall be completed no later than November 30th, unless delayed by an Act of God. The league schedule will not begin until Labor Day weekend. **(February 2003)**
(Penalty-Article XII, Line 21) (February 2002)

Section 3 – Starting Times

~~Play in night games shall start by 6:00 p.m. and the order of play shall be "C", "B", and "A". Sunday afternoon games will begin at 1:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m., if possible, and agreed to by both directors, and the order of play shall be "A", "B", "C", and "D". There will be no exception. Organizations that have more than 1 full squad represented as a league team (i.e. At least 3 additional squads in A, B, C, and/or D) will be allowed to host Saturday afternoon games in A, B, C, D order. Saturday afternoon games may start as early as 12:30 PM.~~
NO strict start times and game order for league games (March 2025)

Playoff start-time--earliest start time 1pm (March 2026)

At the conclusion of each game, the scoreboard clock will be reset to 5 minutes and start to countdown. The following game will not start until 5 minutes has expired. During this time the teams will warm up and Captains will be with officials. (February 2004)

However, if there is to be a "D" Game on a Saturday night, the "D" Team will begin at 4:00 p.m. and the order of play shall be "D", "C", "B", and "A". There shall be no exceptions. (February 2003)

Team not showing up to play a game will pay the home org. the officials fees for that game.(Feb. 2011)

Directors and Head coaches for both home and visiting teams will introduce themselves to at least the head official prior to the start of their game. This will help officials know who to speak to for an explanation on a call or for time outs. (February 2010)

Section 4 – Postponements of Games

Only severe bad weather should cause the postponement of a scheduled game, or the inability of teams to use fields in inclement weather on the decision of officials who control fields Postponement is to be made up only after consultation by the directors of the teams involved. The Commissioner's decision will prevail. Saturday's games shall be made up on Sunday and Sunday's games should be made up on Monday if fields and officials are available.

Cancellation of games. The league (Commissioner) must be notified at least one and a half hours prior to the start of the first event. Cost involved will be payment of first game to each scheduled official. (February 2009)

All games are played until a winner is decided. Overtime rules apply. Only weather can overrule. A, B, and C games only. (February 2010)

Section 5 – Weigh-In Scales

The home team shall provide a double bar or digital scale for the purpose of pre-game weigh-ins. Such a scale shall be of the balance type platform scale or digital scale, which must be certified annually in the months of June, July, August, or September prior to the first league game. Certification must be indicated by the presence of a sticker or tag, which was placed there by the City or County Sealer of Weights and Measures. Failure to comply will result in forfeit of game or games until scales are properly certified. A copy of the scale Certification is to be provided with a team's Contract Rosters. (Thursday before the season starts) Or mail to Commissioner before the season starts. (Postmark)(**Penalty - Article XII. Line 14**)(February 2004)

The weigh-in scale can't be moved during weigh-ins. If moved, it must be placed back on to the previous spot. Both teams will weigh-in, with the scale in the same spot. (March 2006)

When using a digital scale, the player's weight is capped at the maximum weight allowed for each level. For example:

A Team cap is 165 lbs – A player weighing in at 165.1 lbs or higher is ineligible for the game as per league weight rules.

B Team cap is 145 lbs – A player weighing in at 145.1 lbs or higher is ineligible for the game as per league weight rules.

C Team cap is 120 lbs – A player weighing in at 120.1 lbs or higher is ineligible for the game as per league weight rules.

D Team cap is 100 lbs – A player weighing in at 100.1 lbs or higher is ineligible for the game as per league weight rules.

Added weight to A,B,C and D levels during league game season. Add 1lb. each week. Weeks 1 thru week 9, (regular season) (March 2021)

Enforce a strict penalty for scale tampering. Only the designated person will be at the scales along with the visiting team's representative. Fine for the violating org. is \$50.00 (February 2009)

Section 6 – Official Game Time

At fields where there is no scoreboard or clock or at those fields where there is a scoreboard and the clock is or becomes inoperative, official time will be kept on the field. At those fields where there are scoreboards and clocks and where they are operative for midget football games, such clocks will only be official if the game officials are satisfied that the clock is qualified and they notify both directors and both directors then agree to the scoreboard clock being official time. If no agreement between the directors can be reached, official time will be kept on the field.

Section 7 – Medical Care

Each team will supply its own medical kit and will be responsible for any and all medical expenses incurred by its own member. When possible the home team will endeavor to have medical personnel in the attendance at all home games and will also endeavor to have a vehicle available for use in any emergency. There should be a method of communication at each site available for an emergency.

An EMT, ambulance or medically qualified person must be on site at all events. (Feb. 2014)

Each team shall supply its own medical kit for every game played. If not supplied / 1st offense is a warning. If neither team has a medical kit, the game will not be played. 2nd offense is a forfeit of the game. (February 2009)

Section 8 – Reporting Scores

It will be the responsibility of the Director of the home team to report the scores of his games played that day to the Commissioner. The times for calling in the scores will be set by the Commissioner. Violations will result in a fine of \$15.00. (February 2003)

Organizations will have a league wide tool for reporting scores to league and commissioner (March 2026)

Section 9 – Team Colors

Any team wanting to change team colors must receive a majority vote for approval from the Board of Directors.

Section 10 – Team Rosters

The roster with name, age, and each player's contract and duplicate birth certificate shall be submitted to the Commissioner no later than the Thursday proceeding the opening day of the league season. Failure to get rosters in on time will result in a fine of \$25.00.

Organizations must submit a copy of all players Birth Certificates and Player contracts each season. (March 2025)

Rosters will be sent out by league for Weeks 1 and 2. Updates each week if changed (player added, etc.) (March 2026)

Finalized Rosters sent out by the league (after Week 3 lock)--This is the official weigh in roster (March 2024)

Section 3 teams may add players at any time but must submit the updated roster and paperwork to the league. (March 2024)

All eligible players on a team roster must be dressed in the team's uniform for the league sanctioned/scheduled game. If a team (A, or B, or C, or D) has over 50 players and the team's director/coach does not want to suit up all players, that team's director must contact the opposing team director prior to game day (eg. Thursday before game day) and request approval. Both Directors must agree prior to game day. (February 2007)

All directors must have a typed roster for each weigh-in. Players not participating can be scratched off. Penalty \$50.00 (February 2010)

Article VII

Game Rules

Section 1 – PIAA Rules

League games shall be played according to PIAA Rules and Regulations, except as stated in the Article or amended as deemed necessary to the Board of Directors.

1. Playing time for "D" game shall be eight minutes per quarter. After each game is completed, 5 minutes is placed on the scoreboard, to allow for pre - game on the field warm up. (February 2005)
2. Playing time for "A", "B", and "C" games shall be 9 minutes per quarter. (February 2013) **(C added March 2023)**
3. When possible, all officials in league games shall be PIAA approved for football. Both directors before each game must approve all non PIAA officials. A director who refuses to play under the guise of this item assumes the responsibility for field expenses incurred by rescheduling, except referees. Four officials will be provided for each game by the Commissioner. (February 2003)
 - a. Officials will be Lancaster/Lebanon officials. For teams outside of Lancaster County, the Commissioner will provide scheduling assistance if required. (February 2007)
4. A (TDY/RDY) size leather football shall be the official ball for "A", and "B" teams, A (TDJ/RDJ) leather football shall be the official ball for "C" team. A (K2/RDP) leather football shall be the official ball for "D" teams. Wilson, Riddell or Under Armour brand football only. (March 2015)

5. Scoring points will be awarded as follows:

Touchdown	6 points
Safety	2 points
Field Goal	3 points

Points after Touchdown

Rush	1 point
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Forward Pass 2 points (stress, must be a forward pass) (February 2005)

Kick 2 points

6. Players will be able to wear clear (non-tinted visor). No tinted or colored visors will be allowed. (March 2023)
7. The home team director should notify the visiting team director of the medical person in charge before the games start. (February 1997)
8. "A". "B" and "C" team games to be played with four (4) officials, you will pay four (4) at \$60.00 per official, or if you have three (3) officials, you will pay three (3) at \$60.00 per official. "D" team games play with at least (1) Official, (2) is preferable. Pay \$60.00 per Official. (February 2012)
9. If an official ejects a player from a game, he/she will sit out the next game. Penalty will carry over to next season. (February 2003)
10. If an official ejects a coach from a game, he/she will not be allowed at the next game. Penalty will carry over to next year. (February 2003)
11. D-Team – No blitzing – Maximum of 6 players (4 players on line must be down lineman) on the line of scrimmage prior to the snap. Only the 2 outside players (D ends) can be upright. Neither defensive tackle shall line up closer to the center than heads up on the offensive guard. Penalty is 15 yds. or half the distance. (March 2015)
12. **D-Team--One coach may be on the field as D team is fundamental. (March 2025)**
 - a. **D-Team--Coaches on field must stay behind deepest official and deepest player (March 2026)**
13. Horse collar rule in effect. (PIAA rule for 2009)
14. D-Team--Defensive End can't line up further than 3yd outside the tackle box and rush (March 2026)
15. D-Team: No defensive player may line up heads up (helmet to helmet) on the offensive center. 1st offense is a warning, 2nd on will be a 15yd. penalty, depending on location on the field. (February 2013)
16. No cut blocking at any level. 15 yd. penalty or half the distance , depending on field position. (2015)
17. All coaches must complete an agreed upon on-line concussion clinic or attend a concussion clinic. Form to be handed into League. (March 2015)
18. Game clock stops at change of possession and doesn't start until Chains set and official signal to restart clock. (March 2018)
19. No kickoff at start of either half at D level. No kickoffs after Score at D level. Possession of ball at 40 yard line. (March 2018)
20. No (actual) punts at D level. If ball is inside own 25yd. line after a turnover on downs, spot ball at 25 yd. line and change of possession. (March 2018)

Team may elect to "Punt" on 4th down within own half

This moves ball 25 yards away from their endzone and changes possession (March 24)
21. **Kickoffs at A,B,C levels: No player on kick team, except Kicker may move until ball is kicked.** (March 2019)

22. Each organization is responsible for presenting a football field meeting PIAA requirements to host games. (Feb. 2020)

23. Visiting/Away team will provide chain gangs for all games. (March 2024)

Section 2 – 24 Point Differential

A team that is 24 points ahead of their opponent must substitute offensively .A complete team made up of players from their bench strength or any part of a team available. BENCH STRENGTH (FEB. 97) shall be defined as those players who do not start the game on either offense or defense, and who does not perform with a starting or first team unit repeatedly. Replace skill position (Feb. 97) players on offense , depending on bench numbers. Skill positions are defined on offense as: quarterback, running backs, and ends. (Feb. 97) This rule shall not apply to Defense, (SPECIAL TEAMS) kick-off, kick-off return, punting, punt return, offense and defense teams on point after touchdown attempts. Team leading by 24 points may leave their starting defense in. Team leading by 24 points may leave second string quarterback (even if player is a starter at another position . (Feb. 2020)

Rules for regular season games:

24 point rule is in effect for the entire game during the regular season. (March 2006 Meeting)

Penalty for Violation of 24 Point Differential

First Offense – Suspend head coach for a period of 1 game. (March 2015)

Second Offense – Suspend the head coach for a period of one year from the date of the infraction.

Third Offense – The head coach shall be permanently suspended from the league in any capacity. (Feb. 2002)

Rules for playoff games:

There will be no **24-point differential rule** in playoff games. (Wild card ,Play-in, Division and Championships) (February 2003)

Section 3 – Determining Team Division Standards

Division standings will be computed as follows:

1. Win/Loss Record in Division.
2. Head to Head Play
3. Points against in Division games (added March 2026)

Article VIII

Final Standings, Playoffs, and Championship Games

Section 1 – Ties in Division Standings

Playoff with teams having like records. (3 teams with same records, 1 team can't wait for 3 teams to get one winner. All teams must play in 1st round and winners play for playoff seed. (March 2017)

A playoff game will then be held between the teams involved, at a neutral field, if possible, to determine which team will represent its division in the league championship. A tie in such game requires the use of the PIAA 10 Yard Overtime Procedure.

Section 2 – League Championship Game(s)

Division champions and wild card teams shall meet in the league championship games to determine league champions in “A”, “B”, and “C” classifications. If any championship game ends in a tie score, the game will be decided by the use of the PIAA 10 Yard Overtime Procedure.

If three (3) divisions are involved, a wild card team plays the top seeded team. A wildcard team is a second place team with the best division record. If two (2) or three (3) teams have the same record they will playoff to determine the wild card team that will go into the playoffs. **(February 1997)**

League playoff match-ups and sites will be determined by the Commissioner.

There will be no “D” Team Championship Game or Championship Trophy.

The League playoff format has to be re-visited, due to the re-alignment in a current season. Director comments during the off season will be taken into consideration. (March 2006)

Article IX

Trophies and Awards

Section 1 – Trophies - Team

DIVISION - A team that finishes in first place in its respective division at the conclusion of the regularly scheduled league games will be awarded a suitable Division Team Trophy.

(February 2001)

LEAGUE - The league shall provide a suitable Championship trophy for League Champions and second place teams in each of the three classifications, “A”, “B” & “C”.

League Championship Trophy will be named in Honor of Larry Fisher former RRFL commissioner **(March 2023)**

Section 2 – Trophies - Players

One trophy to be awarded, by the league, to each player on the winning and losing team of the League Championship Game. These trophies will be awarded on each level, (“A”, “B” & “C”). **(February 1997)**

With the teams growing in numbers, the league must cap this at an average of 55 trophies per team.

Total of 330 personal trophies. **(February 2005)**

(Article X

Team and League Expenses

Section 1 – League Assessment

Each team will pay an amount to be determined by the League as its proportionate share of the operating costs.

League Organization Fee: To be set at Annual Meeting – 2024 fee \$300.00 (August 2024)

Section 2 – Character Fee

Each team will deposit the sum of twenty-five dollars in the league treasury as a Character Fee, which is returnable if the member team withdraws from the league, minus any fines or assessments.

Section 3 – Game Officials

Four (4) officials shall constitute a complete crew for A,B,C and D games. A minimum of three (3) officials shall constitute a complete crew for regular season games. The home team will be responsible for their fee.
(March 2021)

A minimum of four (4) officials shall constitute a complete crew for post-season games.
Responsibility for their fees shall be as follows:

- Playoff Games–Host Team (February 1997)
 - Championship–Host Team (5th official/ \$65 per game and 3 official chain crew/\$100 each, paid by RRFL) (March 2026)
 - Wildcard playoff games- League
1. Officials will be paid at half time of the second game.
Fee per game/official \$65.00 (March 2026)
 2. Every effort will be made to have at least two experienced officials on a four man crew. (February 2011)
 3. **League official scheduler: \$600 paid by RRFL . (March 2026)**

Article XI

Protests and Penalties

Section 1 – Valid Protest

A protest to be considered by the Commissioner as valid, must meet the following specifications:

1. Be filed with the Commissioner in accordance with Section 2 of Article XI. pertaining to proper filing procedures.
2. State the name of the team being charged.
3. Specify the By-Law that has been violated.
4. Briefly describe the events surrounding the violation.

The basis for a protest is as follows:

1. Team arriving five (5) minutes later than scheduled starting time.
2. Use of an ineligible player at any time.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct by individuals, teams, coaches, or director.
4. Team walks off field during a game; coach is suspended for season and team forfeits game. Second violation by team and team forfeits entire season including prior games played. – See schedule of penalties (February 2007)
5. Team personnel who may cause fighting among them, opponents, or spectators; of who may threaten, push, use profane language or otherwise abuse officials or league staff before, during, or immediately after a game.
6. Field insufficiently or improperly lined.
7. Any violation of these By-Laws.

The Commissioner has the right to refuse incidental violation.

Section 2 – Filing a Protest

A Director or Alternate Director of any team can file a protest with the Commissioner by any one of the following methods:

1. By direct telephone contact with the Commissioner on or before midnight of the first Tuesday following the games being protested.
2. By delivering a written protest to the home, (or office), of the Commissioner on or before midnight of the first Tuesday following the game.
3. By mailing a protest to the home, (or office) of the Commissioner. The envelope bearing this protest, when received by the Commissioner, must bear a postmark dated midnight or before the first Tuesday following the game being protested.
4. Regardless of the method used to file a protest, a one hundred dollar (\$100.00), protest Fee shall be deposited with the Commissioner on or before the first Tuesday following the game being protested. This Protest Fee may be withdrawn until the time of the protest meeting.

Section 3 – Procedure Following Receipt Of Protest

As soon as the Commissioner has received a protest and has determined its validity, he will take the following action:

1. Appoint a three-man Protest Committee to hear the protest. No director may refuse this appointment; however, a director may delegate his alternate if he himself cannot appear. At this time the Commissioner will set the time, place, and date of the protest meeting.
2. The Protest Committee will consist of one (1) director from the division of the offending team and two (2) directors from the neutral division.
3. The Commissioner will notify the directors of the teams involved that a valid protest exists; the contents of the protest; that a protest committee has been selected, and the time, place, and date, of the protest meeting.
4. When the Commissioner has notified each director of the protest meeting, he will further advise each director that only the following persons will be permitted to attend the protest meeting.
 - A. The director, co-director or alternate from the team filing the protest.
 - B. The director, co-director or alternate from the team being charged in the protest.
 - C. The three-man (3) Protest Committee.
 - D. The Commissioner.
 - E. The Secretary to record the proceedings.
 - F. Any league officer invited must attend.
 - G. Any person having valid information regarding the protest shall be permitted to attend the meeting.
5. Should any unauthorized or uninvited persons appear at the protest meeting and should such persons refuse to leave the room where the protest meeting is being conducted, the Commissioner may use his authority to do one of the following.
 - A. Disallow the protest.
 - B. Declare the team charged in the protest "guilty" and assign a penalty.
6. If any of the actions described in Item 5 is taken, the protest meeting will be adjourned. There will be no appeal to this action.
7. In the event that the Commissioner is connected with a team involved in the protest, he will step aside and his duties during the life of the protest will be performed by another league officer provided such officer is not also involved in the protest.
8. All directors can be invited to attend a protest meeting, but are not allowed to participate if they are not on the Protest Board.

Section 4 – Protest Meeting

As soon as the Protest Meeting has been called to order, the following procedure will be in effect.

1. The director or alternate director of the team filing the protest will state the specific by-law that has been violated, and under which his protest is based, in regards to this violation, and at the same time present his proof that a violation did occur.
2. Following "1" of this section, the director or alternate director from the team being charged in the protest will then present his facts and proof that the violation did not occur as stated.
3. As soon as "1" and "2" of this section have been completed, the Protest Committee will then have the opportunity to question either or both of the team's representatives with regards to their statements.
4. When the Protest Committee has indicated to the Commissioner that they have completed their questioning, the Commissioner will direct the Protest Committee to take a written vote to determine a "guilty" or "not guilty" verdict.
5. If a verdict of "not guilty" is returned by the Protest Committee, the Commissioner will announce this decision and adjourn the Protest Meeting. There is no appeal to this decision.
6. If a verdict of "guilty" is returned by the Protest Committee, the Commissioner will announce this decision and then instruct the Protest Committee to take a vote to determine the penalty. The penalty assigned by the Protest Committee shall be selected from the listed Schedule of Penalties of these by-laws.
7. If the majority of the Protest Committee cannot agree on the penalty, they will advise the Commissioner who will then assign a penalty of his choice from the listed Schedule of Penalties of these by-laws.
8. If a penalty is assigned to a team by the Protest Committee, the Commissioner can use his authority to reduce such penalty, should in his judgment, circumstances warrant such a reduction.
9. There is no appeal to a penalty assigned by the Protest Committee or by the Commissioner.
10. If a team wins its protest, the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) Protest Fee will be returned to the team filing the protest. If the team filing the protest loses the protest, the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) Protest Fee goes to the league.
11. Adjournment of the protest meeting will follow the above actions.
12. Minutes of the protest proceedings shall be forwarded to all league officers and directors within fourteen (14) days of adjournment of said meeting.

Article XII

Schedule of Penalties

1. A fine of not less than \$25.00 or more than \$100.00.
2. Forfeit of game being protested.
3. Forfeit of game being protested plus any or all-previous league games.
4. Forfeit of game being protested and forfeit of the right to participate in league play-off and/or championship games.
5. Suspension from the league, of the head coach, of the team found "guilty" of a violation. This suspension shall be in effect for one (1) year from the date it was assigned. Reinstatement can only be made by a written application to, and acceptance by the Commissioner. A suspension from the league means that the individual suspended may not participate in any league activity including games and practices.

6. Suspension of a team, from the league, for the following season. A team assigned this penalty will appear on the league schedule for the following season, but all of their games on such schedule will be forfeited.
 - A A team under this suspension will continue to be governed by the league By-Laws.
 - B A team under this suspension will retain their right to vote and participate in league meetings and other league activities.
7. Probation.
 - A. Any team from this league may be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year as a result of a valid protest. A team assigned this penalty will appear on the league schedule and all their games will count in league standings.
8. Any league team and / or member after more than one violation of league by-laws can be terminated indefinitely from the league by vote of the Board of Directors at any time.
9. In the event that any member team of the Red Rose Midget Football League is found guilty of violating the weigh-in procedure as found in Article V. Section 5, the sponsoring organization will be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00). In addition, those individuals (team director, coaches, and player) directly involved will be suspended for one (1) year from the date of the violation.
10. The fine for not being represented at a league meeting will be \$25.00.
11. The fine for not being represented at the annual meeting will be \$50.00.
12. The fine for not reporting scores to the Commissioner of the League will be \$15.00. **(February 2000)**
13. The penalty for violating the 18/~~24~~-point differential can be found under Article VII, Section 2 of these By-Laws.
14. Any team that is found guilty of violating Article VI, Section 5, will be fined and game or games may be replayed, and the maximum fine will be assessed until the scales are properly certified.
15. Fine for not having team roster in numerical order is \$10.00.
16. Any combination of the above penalties.
17. The game must be replayed
18. If a fine is all or part of an assigned penalty, such fine shall be paid prior to that team's next regularly scheduled league games. If no further games remain to be played by a team so fined, the fine shall be due one (1) week from the date of the assignment. Any fine not paid in the specified time limit will be doubled.
Example: A \$10.00 fine for missing a meeting becomes \$20.00.
19. Three week suspension
20. A second ejection from a game will result in a one (1) year suspension from the date of infraction.
21. Any team that is found guilty of violating Article VI, Section 2, will forfeit the first division game of that season.
- 22. If a team walks off the field during a game (prior to game clock expiring signaling the end of the game) the coach will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the season. The team that walks off the field will also forfeit the game. A second violation by the team and the team will forfeit the entire season including games previously won. (February 2007)**
- 23. Red Rose League/ Parent Code of Ethics. Any parent found to be threatening an official will be removed from the event. (stoppage of play). If the parent or spectator of the respective team refuses to leave, that team will forfeit the game. (February 2010)**
- 24. If a team is caught cheating during the regular season(ie. Weigh-ins). The head coach will receive a 2 game suspension.(Feb. 2011)**

Red Rose Midget Football League

Coach's Code of Ethics

I _____ understand that it is the responsibility of my Team Director to
(Print Name)
enforce this Code of Ethics, and that any violation of this Code of Ethics may result in a suspension of or removal from, coaching responsibilities at the sole discretion of the Team Director. I also understand that this Code of Ethics is in addition to any PIAA standard of conduct for coaches during games, and that if I am ejected from a game by a PIAA game referee it could also result in a suspension of one to three games at the sole discretion of the Red Rose Midget Football League.

1. I will not tolerate physical abuse of any coaches, players, referees or any League officials.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players above any personal desire to win.
3. I will remember to treat each player as an individual remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
4. I will do my very best to provide safe playing situations for my players.
5. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all of my players.
6. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all of my players.
7. I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of the game and that I will teach these rules to my players.
8. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills and age group that I teach.
9. I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for the children and not for the adults.
10. I will not attend any practices or games while under the influence of any controlled substance or alcohol.
11. I will refrain from using any tobacco products while in the presence of team members.
12. I will never use profanity.
13. Head coaches will introduce themselves to the officials prior to the start of their game.
14. All coaches must complete an agreed upon on-line concussion clinic or attend a concussion clinic. (feb. 2014)
15. Coach may not threaten or harass any person involved in the RRFL football. Such actions are forbidden in person, through social media and through other forms of communication. A coach threatening or harassing another coach, parent or official will be suspended or banned, depending on the severity of the offense. A coach who threatens or harasses a youth player will be permanently banned from the RRFL. (March 2021)

Coach:

Team:

Director:

Red Rose Midget Football League

Directors Guide

The director is responsible to take all league business back to his/or her organization for discussion, then bringing back to our league meeting the vote of his/or her organization.

The Director or Co-Director is responsible for attending all league functions, (meetings).

The Director of Co-Director shall be responsible for the conduct of coaches, players, and parents at team practices.

The Director or Co-Director shall be responsible for the following at all home games:

1. Have playing field maintained whenever possible.
2. Have playing field properly lined off, have people in place to run the clock, scoreboard, chains, and down markers.
3. Have certified scales on the grounds that have the proper certification.
4. Conduct all weigh-ins according to league by-laws (Article V – Section 5).
5. Use proper games roster for weigh-ins.
6. Conduct of the following: coaches, players, parents, fans, people running scoreboard, chains & down-markers, and people working in food stand.
7. Payment of officials.
8. Reporting all scores to League Secretary as set up in the by-laws. (Article VI – Section 8).
9. For postponement of league games use guidelines set up in the by-laws. (Article VI – Section 4). If at all possible, let's try to make the decision at least two (2) hours before game time.
10. Help your coaches regarding the 18-point rule; inform them of the procedure, as well as the penalty if they violate this rule.
11. For Game Balls.
12. *Conduct and safety of cheerleaders.*
13. A 'Buddy System" will be used for all new directors in the Red Rose Football League. A Director, with previous experience, will be assigned to assist a new Director.
14. The only negative contact between teams shall be between athletic Directors. Coaches are not permitted to contact opposing Athletic Directors or vice versa. (February 2009)
15. All directors will introduce themselves to the officials prior to the start of games.(February 2010)

Red Rose Midget Football League League Playoff Overview

1. Three Division Winners make the playoffs, plus one wild card team for each level. (A,B,C)
2. In case of a tie for the wild card spot or division winner, teams will playoff. Games are played at end of division play.
3. The first round of playoff games will be played the first weekend after the end of the regular season.
4. The League Championship Game will be played the third weekend after the end of the regular season.
5. The League playoff format has to be re visited, do to the re-alignment in a current season. Director comments during off season will be taken into consideration.

2023 Playoff Format

The following represents the 2023 (B and C) Division playoff format – Play-in games are not listed:

Section 1 – 4 teams represented

Section 2 – 4 teams represented

Seeding for playoffs: Best records in section (head to head play) (Cross section play will not count for standings)

Seeding for overall sections: Best records (like records by coin toss)

Seedings will alternate between sections

2020 Playoff Format

Section 1 : 4 teams represented (4th and 5th place teams in section play a wildcard playoff for playoff seed)

Section 2 : 4 teams represented (4th and 5th place teams in section play a wildcard playoff for playoff seed)

Seeding for playoffs: Best records in section (head to head play)

Seeding for overall sections: Best records,(like records by coin toss)

Seedings will alternate between sections.

(Feb. 2020)

A Team Playoffs TBD (March 2021)

RRFL to start a committee to have the A division participate in an All-Star game at the conclusion of the League Championship. (Feb. 2020)

4-Week Post Season Schedule (Wildcard, Divisional, Conference, Championship) March 2026

- **Section 1 & 2: 6 Auto-Qualifiers (#1-3 Seeds get Wildcard as Bye Week)**
- **Section 1 & 2: 2 Wildcards (#4 Seed from Section 1-2 will play in Wildcard Game)**
- **Section 3: 2 Wildcards (#1-2 Seeds will play in Wildcard Game)**