

MISSION STATEMENT

The Amateur to Professional Developmental Football League (APDFL) is dedicated to being a developmental program for our players. It is our mission to help all members of our league with the appropriate talent, advance to the next level by promoting our players so they can reach their respected goals. Whether they are players out of high school still wishing to reach a strong collegiate program, or a past college athlete trying to reach the professional levels, it is our goal to help them get there by working with scouting departments to give them their deserved opportunity.

**All League Members (Owners, Coaches & Players) Agree to the Bylaws, Rules and
Regulations of the APDFL**

1. All teams are required to pay the non-refundable league membership fee **NO LATER THAN 8pm Eastern Time on August 31, 2025** (\$300 for all teams). A late fee of **\$200** will be assessed between **September 1, 2025 and 8pm Eastern Time on November 12, 2025**. Any team forfeiting a game throughout the course of the season **will receive a loss for said game**. Teams **will not** be added to the official 2026 APDFL schedule without being in compliance. All Forfeits are subject to league review and extenuating circumstances will be taken into account (i.e. weather, last minute loss of field, transportation issue, etc.).

1(a). Team fee has been WAIVED for the 2026 season.

2. All players will be REQUIRED to register with the league via the league website at **www.TheAPDFL.net**. All league members understand and agree that they are required to have a state issued Driver's License or Identification Card, Military ID, Electronic APDFL ID, or Passport on their person at all times during any and all APDFL events. Without an ID ready upon request, players are not eligible to participate in any APDFL activities and therefore are not allowed to be on the sideline. Players not presenting an ID upon request will be considered a "fan" for said game. Any team allowing an individual to participate in any APDFL sanctioned contest without being on the active roster will receive a **LOSS** for said game. All teams are required, and therefore expected, to check rosters prior to each contest. Any home team not checking player ID's prior to kick-off will receive a loss for said game.

3. The APDFL spring season will kick-off with the Commissioners Kick-Off Classic to be held on **February 28, 2026**. This event will consist of teams playing at one location and will be considered week zero (0) of the 2026 season. The APDFL season is expected to conclude with the National Presidents Cup Championship XIV on **June 27, 2026**.

4. Each organization can have up to **65 players** (active & inactive) on their roster. A minimum of **22 players** are required to be listed on a team's active roster. Any team allowing coaches to participate in any contest as a player must also ensure that said individual(s) are listed as both a player and a coach and should register as a player. Any coach not listed on the active roster as a player will be deemed ineligible to participate as a player for any APDFL sanctioned contest.

4 (a). To be placed on the APDFL league wide schedule for 2026, each organization will be **REQUIRED** to submit an initial roster (**22 player minimum**) to the league no later than **Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 8:00 PM eastern standard time** and must be kept updated and active by each organization as deemed necessary. Each organization will be **REQUIRED** to submit a final active roster to the league **no later than Friday March 27, 2026 at 8:00 PM eastern standard time (this is the Friday evening of week 4.)**.

5. No member will be allowed access to the playing field at any time without presenting an ID, press badge, staff card or is not considered to be security and/or medical personal. Therefore, players will not be allowed to participate in game activities if they are not in possession of their ID and must not be on the sideline. Each individual team is solely responsible for having non-APDFL essential personal and/or identified team members on their sideline. Any team violating this rule will be subjected to a **\$150 fine per occurrence. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED!!**

6. Photos for players are to be taken with the player wearing a team issued polo. All members from said team should have their photos taken in identical color polo. All photos should be taken free of sunglasses, ball caps, team jerseys, etc. All player, coach, and/or staff photos must be recent and up to date.

7. No player may play for any other league team once signing a member commitment without first getting a release from a team representative and being approved by the league. The APDFL will define released players in 1 of 2 ways:

1. Team-initiated - If the releasing team “cuts” or otherwise initiates the release of a player, a formal request in writing must be given by the releasing team, the player in question and the receiving team to put said transaction into motion. The releasing team must say that they have “cut” or released the player. There is NO trading fee and no requirement to trade a player of equal value.

2. Player-initiated – If the player requests or initiates a release, a formal request in writing must be given by the releasing team, the player in question and the receiving team to put said transaction into motion. The releasing team must say that the player initiated the release. The receiving team must either trade a player of equal value to the releasing team, or pay a **\$100 Trading Fee** to the team releasing the player. **In BOTH scenarios, the player must re-register with the new team!!!** Team representatives must be listed on file with the league office. Any organization playing a player without a valid release and/or approval from the league will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. Players being released from their perspective team will be announced and listed on the league website as an ‘unsigned’ player. **PLAYER COMMITMENTS ARE ACTIVE FOR ONE FOOTBALL SEASON.**

8. No league member (coaches and/or players) will be allowed to switch teams **after 8:00pm eastern standard time on Friday, March 21, 2026 (Week 3)**. All league players are required to play in a minimum of **four (4) regular season games** to be eligible to play in the post season without prior approval. Four (4) game minimum will be determined according to each team’s official page via the league’s website. Any player involved in professional contract, signing and/or implied, will be considered as a “professional athlete” and deemed as such in compliance with NCAA Clearinghouse rules and regulations on “amateurism”. Any team allowing such player to participate in any APDFL contest will receive a LOSS for said game.

9. Active rosters should be viewable by accessing each team’s web page no later than Friday prior to each game. Each team’s web page, and therefore active roster, can be accessed via the league website at www.TheAPDFL.net. Any player not on said roster should not be allowed to participate in that week’s game without prior permission from the league office. Any player playing in said game will be deemed an illegal player and that game will be considered a **LOSS**. Each player and/or coach will be **REQUIRED** to have their ID on them and should be able to present their ID when required at each game. Rosters are to be checked just prior to kickoff for each game. The head coach of each team, in conjunction with an official, should visualize the opposing team’s roster, one at a time, to ensure that all personal are complying. All registered players will be added to their respective teams’ active roster independently by the league upon registering via the league website. All registered players are to be added to their team’s active roster **ONLY** by the league and/or the leagues designated personnel unless otherwise indicated.

10. All players and staff must be present at the pre-game roster/staff check and must display their ID to participate in the first half of any APDFL sanctioned game. Any player arriving **AFTER** the roster check will not be deemed eligible until the 3rd quarter of said game. Player must first, at the end of the

half but prior to the 2nd half kickoff, check-in with the head official and the opposing head coach to be considered eligible.

10 a. Teams will be granted the opportunity to allow a player to participate after the pre-game roster check by utilizing a team time out. **Exception: players must be present and checked in prior to kick-off for the Commissioners Kickoff Classic and Presidents Cup Championship.**

11. All league members will conduct themselves in a proper and professional manner both on and off the field. League members understand and accept that they are ambassadors of the APDFL and their actions are a reflection on our league. All league members must carry themselves in a professional and orderly manner in the world of social media just as they are expected to in their daily lives. Any league member that is charged with a felony during the season will be suspended and deemed ineligible until further notice.

12. Any league member caught with a firearm at any APDFL function, game or event, will be terminated from the league and turned over to the proper authorities. Weapons of any sort are not allowed at any APDFL event. This includes (but is not limited to) players, coaches, staff and spectators. The only personal permitted to carry firearms are those being given permission during the course of their occupation (i.e., law enforcement). Any incident involving the use of a firearm, possession of a firearm, and/or the need for law enforcement involvement will result in immediate suspension and/or dismissal for all parties involved from the APDFL. The Board of Directors suggest that each organization displays a sign of some sort stating that weapons are NOT permitted. The APDFL is not responsible for any loss, damaged and/or injuries that may take place at any APDFL sanctioned event.

13. Fighting will not be tolerated from any league member. Any player, coach, owner or sideline participant causing a fight or instigating a fight will be suspended from league play for the remainder of the game as well as the following game and will not be permitted to remain on the sideline. Any player, coach, owner or sideline participant retaliating will be suspended for the remainder of the game and will not be permitted to remain on the sideline. Any player, coach, owner or sideline participant leaving the sideline and entering the field of play during a fight will be suspended for the remainder of the game as well as the following game and will not be permitted to remain on the sideline. Coaches, managers and team owners that are NOT also players are the only individuals that are permitted to leave the sideline to break up an altercation. Any player, coach, owner or sideline participant engaging in any of the above behavior will be **subjected to a fine of up to \$500 per occurrence** and said team will be **subjected to a fine of up to \$300 per occurrence**. Said team and/or player will not be eligible to participate in any APDFL events until said fine has been paid. **More than two such offenses will be grounds for removal from participation within the APDFL.** An appeal process is available to all member teams. If a player would like to appeal a suspension, they must do so through their active team which should then submit the appeal for them. At that time the Board of Directors, in conjunction with said team, owner/representative and said player will come to a ruling which will, at that time, be final.

13 a. The following are the three (3) levels of sanctions per occurrence. Each violation, and therefore sanction, will be rendered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the following levels of offense. The APDFL Board of Directors will determine the level of sanction according to the severity of each violation on a case-by-case basis.

- a. **Level 1 violation** – member will receive a \$100 fine and 1 game suspension.
- b. **Level 2 violation** – member will receive a \$300 fine and 2 game suspension.
- c. **Level 3 violation** – member will receive a \$500 fine and 3 game suspension.

14. Any player receiving two (2) dead ball personal fouls (personal foul after the whistle) will be ejected from the game and will be suspended for one (1) complete half in accordance with NCAA rules. All suspended players will be posted on the league website.

15. It is the intent of the league and its members, to eliminate swearing and obscenities by any player, coach, owner or field personnel during all APDFL scheduled events. Any league member violating this rule excessively may be removed from the APDFL scheduled event.

16. Consumption of alcohol and/or illegal substances will not be tolerated. Any individual consuming alcohol and/or illegal substances on the premises will be removed from the playing field and suspended from the league. In the case of illegal substances, the proper authorities will be notified and further sanctions may be imposed.

17. All league members agree that all uniforms must be of identical nature, color and style. All APDFL league members will ensure that all uniforms have the league shield on their left or right upper chest. Players will not be permitted to play without matching helmet, jersey, and pants. All organizations must indicate their teams home and away colors **prior to February 1, 2026**. All teams are required to have at least two (2) jerseys, one (1) home and one (1) away. All teams must ensure that all players are issued official jersey numbers according to their primary position in accordance with the NCAA rules and regulations. NCAA rule book, Rule 1 section 4 Article 1 “strongly recommends” numbering as follows for offensive players: Backs 1-49, Offensive Line 50-79, End 80-99. Otherwise all players can be numbered 0-99. NCAA makes no stipulation on defensive players. No more than two players may share the same number, although they may not play during the same down. Any team in violation of proper uniforms **will be fined \$150 per occurrence to be paid prior to teams next game**.

18. NCAA rules will be used for all games. Composite footballs are NOT to be used for any APDFL sanction games. All league organizations and their respective representatives will be provided with an NCAA 2025-2026 Rules and Interpretations Manual provided to them by APDFL from the National Collegiate Athletic Association upon their request via electronic mail in pdf format. NCAA Rules and Interpretations Manual can also be found on the official APDFL Website.

19. When a team is trailing by **35 points**, the Head Referee may implement a running clock with the approval of the losing team. This rule can be implemented at any point in the contest and once implemented cannot be changed. The clock will continue to run and will only stop at this point for an injury time out. Team administered timeouts will be allowed however, will not stop the game clock. This rule is not in effect in the case of a televised game and/or game of the week.

19 a. When a team is trailing by **45 points**, the above Mercy Rule will automatically be put into effect and will remain in effect for the duration of the game. This rule is not in effect in the case of a televised game and/or game of the week.

20. Officials must be utilized for all games. Any organization providing a home game without officials will automatically receive a **FORFEIT** for that home game. All APDFL regular season contests are required to maintain a minimum of five (5) on field officials per contest & one (1) official on the clock. All post-season contests are required to maintain a minimum of seven (7) on field officials per contest & one (1) official on the clock.

21. The home team in each contest is responsible for incurring all obligations & responsibilities. The home team is to provide a group of three (3) people that are capable of maintaining the yard markers all of which must be properly identified. The home team is to provide, at a minimum, one (1) uniformed officer which must be present for the duration of the game. Failure to provide a uniform officer **will result in a fine of \$200** for the home team to be paid prior to teams next game. The only exception is where teams have agreed to play on a neutral field where both teams will then split all costs. The home

team is to ensure that the uniformed officer has made contact with both the visiting teams owner/ head coach as well as the head official prior to the start of any APDFL sanction game. The home team is required to contact the visiting team **no later than Tuesday evening by 7:00pm eastern standard time** the week of the scheduled game to inform them of all accommodations. Any game cancellations **after 7:00pm eastern standard time on Tuesday evening of the official game week will be considered a FORFEIT** if unable to find a replacement game and will be subjected to a **league fine of \$500**. Any team forfeiting a game on GAME DAY, **will be sanctioned a league fine of \$1,000**. *Fines will be taken from teams forfeit fee and paid to the non-forfeiting team. Forfeiting team will be required to replace the amount deducted prior to playing the next scheduled game.* The home team will be required to ensure that rosters and staff are properly checked prior to the start of all games. Failure to check roster and staff **PRIOR** to each game will result in a **LOSS** for the home team.

22. Each member organization will be required to film each game. Each team is **REQUIRED** to film each and every game both home and away. All teams will be required to submit film **NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM on the Tuesday following the game**. Film can be uploaded to teams web page via the league website or uploaded to YouTube. Film will be utilized for several different reasons and therefore simple highlights are not significant. Each week one game will be considered 'Game of The Week' and will be displayed on the APDFL Network. With this in mind, each team needs to record home games in their entirety. Games will be reviewed by the league Commissioner, Director of Player Development and/or league Compliance Coordinator on a weekly basis. All games need to be filmed at a decent to high level quality where the game itself can be visualized. This should take place from a point above the actual playing field (ie., press box, top row of stands, etc.). If game film is NOT posted by noon on Tuesday following the game, said team **will be subjected to a fine of \$150 (first offense), \$200 (second offense), with each subsequent offense increasing by \$50 and a LOSS for said game**. Fines are to be paid prior to the following game and said team will be listed on the league website under sanctions.

23. All teams must ensure that they are playing on a league certified "playable" field. All APDFL game fields should be lined appropriately in accordance with NCAA rules (or high school rules where necessary). Appropriate measurements for a field considered appropriate include: 365ft or 120yds long (including end zones), 165ft or 53 1/3yds wide, field should be free of all debris and contain no potholes. All playing fields should contain two goal posts located on separate ends of the playing field. All teams should exhaust all avenues to ensure that their home field has a visible clock. Any team not having an operable and visible clock must have their home field cleared with the league prior to use. All teams hosting post season games must have an operable and visible clock to do so. All teams must ensure that their playing field is a safe distance from their fans and is marked appropriately. Teams not in compliance with playing on an officially approved field **will be subjected to a \$150 fine and will receive a LOSS for said game**. Teams must ensure that they have a fully operable scoreboard for all post season games. All teams will be **required to submit the address of their home field and a minimum of three (3) photos of their respective home field from 3 different angles (1 from each end zone and 1 to include the entire width of the field) prior to week 1 of the 2026 season**. Failure to submit the before-mentioned information **will result in a \$100 fine** to be paid prior to week 1 of the regular season.

24. Organizations with multiple home fields or not having a home field should submit to the league in writing either; (a) their primary home field location or (b) a request to participate without a home field. League organizations are required to permit access to their home field for the visiting team approximately two (2) hours prior to kick-off. Home teams should also provide the visiting team, at a minimum, with a source to obtain ice, water, and changing rooms for their players. All visiting teams

are **expected to arrive at a minimum of 60 minutes prior to kick-off**. Visiting teams are required to ensure that they have planned appropriately taking into consideration any issues that may arise.

24 (a). Any team without access to home locker rooms, changing rooms, bath rooms, etc., will be required to provide tents with four walls for opposing teams to utilize. **Any team not providing an environment for the visiting team to change will be fined \$150 unless previously approved by the league Board of Directors.**

25. All participants must log onto the league website at: **www.TheAPDFL.net** and register to be a member of the APDFL. To be considered in “active” status, individuals must read and complete all documents provided in the registration process and must pay the registration fee. Any player participating in any event that is not considered in “active” status will be deemed an illegal player. Registration will **officially close on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 8:00 PM eastern standard time**. No additional registrations will be allowed after this time.

26. No regular season game may take place prior to **3:00 PM local time**. Any team wishing to start a regular season game prior to 3:00 PM local time must have approval from the league as well as the visiting team prior to scheduling. No “distance” game (travel time of four (4) plus hours) may take place **prior to 5:00 PM local time**. No post season game may take place prior to **5:00 PM local time** (7:00 PM for distance game).

27. For playoff purposes, standings will be determined by the winning percentage of all teams in the league. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be used to break a tie:

- (1) Head to head competition
- (2) Conference Record
- (3) Home Record
- (4) Away Record
- (5) Points For
- (6) Points Against
- (7) Season Rankings

28. All team owners, general managers and front office personal will be **REQUIRED** to be in attendance for the *2026 APDFL Commissioners Kick-Off Classic* as well as the *2026 National Presidents Cup Championship*. Teams with no representation will be subjected to a **\$500 fine** to be paid prior to week 1 of the regular season.

**The fine will carry over to the next season if the championship game is missed.*

29. Under no circumstances will there be any changes done to the final schedule by any team unless it has been approved and changed by the league. The APDFL will exhaust all avenues to ensure that the final game schedule will be submitted **no later than December 5, 2025**. Official schedule is to remain in use throughout the entirety of the 2026 spring season (with the exception of any league necessary changes). Any proposals for a schedule change needs to be made in writing directly to the APDFL President and is deemed NOT approved until otherwise stated. *All schedule requests must be submitted no later than 8:00 PM eastern November 15, 2025*. APDFL will exhaust all avenues to ensure that all regular season contests are held among teams within the APDFL.

30. Any team wishing to protest a game, event and/or situation must, themselves, provide video and/or photographic footage of the protested event. All protest and video documentation **must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday following the protested event**. Protests will not be accepted without video and/or photo evidence. Any team wishing to protest an opposing team’s playing field must do so prior to the start of said game. All teams wishing to protest any event must do so by contacting regional director or league President prior to the start of the game. Only protests that take place during a game

may be protested after the start of a game and should be done so by informing opposing team, and head official that the team wishes to play the remainder of the game under protest. Contact to league office should take place at the **COMPLETION** of said game. No action covered within APDFL bylaws will be eligible for a protest and/or an appeal process.

31. No team will be permitted to play in two (2) or more leagues simultaneously. Any team found doing so will be immediately removed from the APDFL and all of its league documentation, websites, etc. and will forfeit all standings and payments. Said teams will not be allowed re-entrance to the APDFL or any of its subsidiaries during the course of said season. No player should be allowed to play on two (2) teams simultaneously throughout the course of the season. This includes teams both within the APDFL and outside of the APDFL. Players found playing for two teams at the same time will be officially removed from their respective team and placed on the list of league wide suspended players for a minimum of two (2) games. Said player **will also be subjected to a \$100 fine to be paid prior to playing in any APDFL event.** Any player being released from the active roster after the league wide deadline will not be permitted to rejoin said team and will be listed on the list of released players via the league website.

32. All owners, coaches, players and staff members must have acknowledged and signed all documentation via the league website to include, but not limited to, the following: active player commitment, official APDFL electronic identification card (team specific), media release, insurance waiver/verification, league rules and bylaws and all other pertinent paperwork, and must have an APDFL electronic identification card (once received) or Government issued ID. Players that are in non-active statuses are ineligible to play. Any team allowing a non-active player to participate in any game will receive a **LOSS** for said game and a **\$200 fine.**

33. Each league organization will be allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) sideline personnel (ie., coaches, ball boys, etc.) all of which will be required to wear their teams official apparel and/or present an identification. All sideline personnel must be listed with their organizations roster and supplied to the league office **no later than February 28, 2026.** All additional sideline personnel will be required to pay \$15.00 to receive a league issued sideline pass (*with the exception of team owners*). Each team must submit their requests no later than **February 28, 2026** to be completed by week 1 of the season.

33 (a). No active, in-active or “injured” player from either team can be a member of the chain crew.

34. All organizations should ensure that they have valid stadium insurance if required. Stadium insurance can be purchased at: **www.Katyinsurance.com** by utilizing the league name Amateur to Professional Developmental Football League, at a discounted rate or can be obtained through organizations own insurance company. Organizations should provide the league with proof of stadium insurance if required or provide in writing documentation indicating stadium is presently covered and this insurance is not necessary.

35. Each league member (player, coach and owner) should obtain a copy of the APDFL rules & regulations. It is the responsibility of each team owner/representative to ensure that their coaching staff, players and sideline personnel have obtained, understand and are in compliance with the rules stated above.

36. Each team is required to have an active and up to date running webpage. This does not include the individual teams Facebook page. The team webpage must be up and running **prior to February 13, 2026** and must be updated on a weekly basis. Any team not maintaining an active webpage **will be**

fined \$150. Each team will be provided a free webpage through the league site at: www.TheAPDFL.net that should be maintained and will fulfill this obligation.

37. Any game called due to weather conditions will be regulated under the following conditions: if **50% (or more)** of a game has been played, the team leading at that point will be deemed the winner and said game will be recorded as such. If **less than 50%** of said game has been played, the game will be rescheduled and continued where the initial game left off. If the rescheduled game is unable to take place and playoff standings are at risk, the team in which was winning at the time said game was called will be deemed the winner.

37 (a). In the case where a game and/or season is canceled due to ANY situation beyond the control of the APDFL and/or any of its subsidiaries, all games will be postponed to the earliest time available.

38. Any team requiring a forfeit during the regular season, without prior approval, will be deemed ineligible for post season play regardless of regular season record. No more than one forfeit win will be calculated in a team's regular season record.

39. All fines and suspensions issued to teams or players can and will rollover to the next season.

2026 Tentative In-Season Schedule

Feb 28 - Commissioner's Classic (Week 0)

Mar 7 – Opening Weekend (week 1)

Mar 14 – Domestic Violence Awareness (week 2)

Mar 21 – First Responders (week 3)

Mar 28 – Rivalry Weekend (week 4)

Apr 4 – Easter Weekend/Make up Weekend (week 5)

Apr 11 – Autism Awareness (week 6)

Apr 18 – Cancer Awareness (week 7)

Apr 25 – Child Abuse Awareness (week 8)

May 2 – Military Appreciation (week 9)

May 9 – Mothers day Weekend (week 10)

May 16 – Suicide Prevention (week 11)

May 23 – Fan Appreciation (week 12)

May 30 – Memorial Day/Make up weekend (week 13)

June 6 – Wild Card Weekend

June 13 – Division Weekend

June 20 – Conference Championship

June 27 - President's Cup Championship