**2015**

**Gridiron Football League Manual**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Welcome…………………………………………………………………………………………….……...……….3

Definition of Individual Entities of GFL

Ownership…………………………………………………………………………..………………………4

Board of Directors……………………………………………………..……………………………………4

Review Board……………………………………………………………….………………………………4

Team…………………………………………………………………………………………………...……4

Team Owner………………………………………………………………………………………………...4

Team Coach………………………………………………………………………………………………...5

Player………………………………………………………….……………………………………………5

Team Personnel……………………………………………………………………………………………..5

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Game Eligibility………………………………………………………………………………….…………6

Playoff Eligibility…………………………………………………………………………………………...6

Player Conduct……………………………………………………………………………………………...6

Travel Games……………………………………………………………………………………………...7

GFL Travel…………………………………………………………………………………………………..7

Player Uniform………………………………………………………………………………………………7

Mandatory Equipment………………………………………………………………………………………8

Player Payments………………………………………………………………………………………….…9

Player Reinstatement………………………………………………………………………………………..9

Player Transfers………………………………………………………………………………………..…...9

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

League Contract…………………………………………………………………………………………….9

Team Fines………………………………………………………………………………………………….9

Team Colors/Logos…………………………………………………………………………………………9

Uniforms……………………………………………………………………………………………………9

Forfeited Games……………………………………………………………………………………………9

Team Sidelines…………………………………………………………………………………………….10

Team Websites…………………………………………………………………………………………….10

Team Participation………………………………………………………………………………………...10

Scrimmages………………………………………………………………………………………………..10

Scrimmages with Fellow GFL Members………………………………………………………………….11

All Other Scrimmages/Games with Non-GFL Members………………………………………………….11

Locker Room/Facilities……………………………………………………………………………………11

Playoffs……………………………………………………………………………………………………11

Championship…………………………………………..…………………………………………………11

Press box…………………………………………………………………………………………………..11

Game Film…………………………………………………………………………………………………12

Rules Questions/Play Review……………………………………………………………………………..12

GFL Hours of Operation…………………………………………………………………………………..12

Weather Cancellations…………………………………………………………………………………….12

Schedule…………………………………………………………………………………………………...12

GFL RULES OF THE GAME

Exceptions to NCAA Rules for Gridiron Football League…………………………………………………14

Additional GFL Rules……………………………………………………………………………………..14

**WELCOME TO GRIDIRON FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

The GFL is the premiere Minor League Football League. The goal of the GFL is to provide a high level of competition which is second to none, and an environment that is fan friendly! GFL has been a member of Minor Football League News (MFLN) since 2004 and has sent its champion and all-stars teams to compete against other MFLN leagues/all-stars.

The GFL is committed to providing its membership the highest level of professionalism, facilities, services, officiating and a safe fun environment for all its teams and fans. Each team owner, coach, player and fan of GFL is expected to operate in the most professional manner possible in order to keep the GFL and its membership with the positive reputation we currently enjoy.

The Board of Directors would like to welcome each of you to the top level of Minor League Football in the State of Arizona and California. The individuals that own the individual teams are expected to read understand and enforce the following rules and regulations of the GFL at all times regardless of the individual interests of their respective teams.

The intent of this manual is to have written guidelines of what is to be expected from each member of the Gridiron Football League. *The intent of this manual is not for GFL members to find loop holes but rather when something is not specifically outline for the members to follow the spirit of the manual*.

**Definition of Individual Entities of GFL**

**Ownership of GFL** – Currently the ownership of the GFL is a LLC owned by Tim Johnston.

**Board of Directors** (BOD) – This group is made up of several individuals that donate their time performing several jobs for the GFL and they are appointed by the ownership:

The BOD currently appointed to positions is as follows:

1. Commissioner – Timothy Johnston
2. Commissioner – Bryan O’Connell
3. General Manager – Matt Pridgen
4. Head of Game Operations –

**Review Board** – This board is appointed by the president and is made up of GFL staff, Officials, BOD members and can include current team owners, coaches or players as seen fit by the Commissioner/GM. The review board will meet as necessary to review team ownership, coaches and/or individual team players. The board will meet each Monday following the weekend games as deemed necessary. Any decision reached by this group will be final and can include team fines and or suspensions. An email outlining the decisions reached by this board will be forwarded to each owner the day following the meeting. The individual owner is responsible to inform its individual coaches or players about any decision reached by this board.

**Team** – An entity comprised of Owner(s), Coaches, players and Team support staff. The team will have signed a year contract. At the beginning of each year the team(s) will have their contract/team reviewed prior to the league contracting with the team for the New Year. The owner conduct, financial stability, coach and player conduct will all be a part of the review process. This review will be conducted by the BOD. The review will take all members of the team into consideration for reviewing its application for the next season. The GFL operates a right to play status of its teams; each entity can refuse to play once it has completed its current contract in addition, the GFL reserves the right to not offer a contract to any team for any reason. For the protection of both parties the GFL and BOD can at any time and solely at their discretion without ramifications terminate the contract of any given team. A team is not considered part of GFL until all monies are paid in full; any team not paid in full by December 1st @ 6PM will not be of GFL for the season regardless of reason.

**Team Owner** – This individual or group of individuals “owns” its individual team. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to:

* Personally responsible for its individual team finances, team personnel including coaches, players and support staff.
* Attends all league meetings and assists on determining GFL playing rules or decisions not directly dealt with in the GFL Manual, a team representative may attend however the “team” forfeits any rights to vote, open any discussion or actively participate in any discussion. In addition failure to attend on a consistent basis can affect your teams’ status in the next season.
* Responsible for ensuring the team has a support staff of coaches and support staff. Responsible for maintaining website, a complete set of professional looking and matching uniforms which will consist of white for away team games, dark for home team games, with no exceptions. The team owner will be held financially responsible for the cost of repairs for any physical property damage his team or those directly associated with his team may cause. The GFL will bring the problem immediately to the team owner and/or head coach.
* Personally responsible to ensure that all members of team fully understand all rules and regulations of the GFL. In addition, the team owner is expected to ensure that his/her team follows the said outline rules and regulations.
* A team owner who is also a team player will be a team player while on the sideline, that status will not change if the owner will not be playing during the game. A team player that is a team owner will not be granted any special consideration or “rights” to speak as a team owner but will still be expected to manage his team at all times.

**Team Coach** – These individuals are there to manage the team on game day. Each coach is expected to understand the NCAA rules and all GFL exceptions (page 13). The coach or coaching staff is responsible for each of their respective team players. A coach will take all player issues and issues regarding the GFL to its team ownership for discussion. The GFL and the officials associated with the league will hold a mandatory meeting prior to the season in an attempt to clarify exceptions and review all rules that teams may have questions on. The right to be a coach of a team in the GFL is subject to review at any time and can be revoked by a majority vote by of the BOD. Should a coach choose to play during a game, he will forfeit all rights as a coach and will be considered a player during the entire game. In order to qualify for the playoffs the coach will have to play in at least 6 games.

**Player** – Each player has the right to play for any team it chooses, once the individual player has signed all GFL documents and declared the team they have chosen. A player may transfer at any time if the player follows transfer rule outlined in the GFL Manual. Individual players are expected to represent themselves and their respective teams in an “above reproach” manner while @ practice, games, or any other GFL activities. The right to be a player of a team in the GFL is subject to review at any time and can be revoked by a majority vote by of the BOD.

**Team Personnel** – Each team may have a support staff that consists of Assistant Coaches, Physician/Trainer, Photographer, statisticians and water personnel. In order to be on the sidelines, each member of the support staff must be a minimum of 12 years old, have filled out all required GFL Forms, and be wearing team apparel at all times. Each team is limited to a maximum of 3 - 12 to 17 year olds that may be on the field/sidelines at any time. Proof of DOB must be provided when paperwork is turned in and must be signed by a legal guardian or parent. The right to be team personnel of a team in the GFL is subject to review at any time and can be revoked by a majority vote by of the BOD.

**PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**GAME ELIGIBILITY**

Each player must complete all GFL paperwork including a physical that is performed by a licensed medical doctor, paid the league fees and submitted with the GFL office not less than one week prior to playing in a game. **All forms and league fees will be paid by the individual player prior to participating in any team practice after Dec. 1st.** Each player, coach, assistant coach, support staff must check in as directed by GFL Staff and show a photo ID (there will be NO visual confirmation by any member of the GFL staff, fellow players, coaches or team owners accepted) and a photo id is the only acceptable manor in which you will be allowed to participate. Only members with completed paperwork and fees paid will be allowed in without paying an entrance fee and allowed on the field or sideline. A GFL staff member will make a team count during the game; any discrepancies between the check-in list and actual field count will result in a suspensions and or fines. Once check in has been completed and not later than the beginning of the third quarter of the game, the check-in will be considered complete and no changes will be made. The GFL staff will allow the player to join his team if check in has occurred following halftime and count it towards a full game credit if the player arrives prior to the beginning of the third quarter. Once the 3rd quarter has started the player will be allowed to play but it will not count towards playoff eligibility.

**PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY**

Players/Team members signed one week before 1st regular season game will be considered *roster* players, any time after player will be considered *new*, and players transfer from one team to another during the current season are considered *transfer* players. Any *roster* player or *transfer* player must play in a minimum of 6 games with the team qualifying for playoffs in order to participate in the playoffs. All *new* players/team personnel signed to a roster must play in a minimum of 5 games with the team qualifying for playoffs in order to participate in the playoffs. Players will not be considered part of a team’s roster until they have completed all paperwork, paid the league fee and submitted those items to the league office. An *Injured Reserve* player may be listed as a member of the team however the injury must be documented by a licensed medical physician and a copy given by the GFL when a player is listed as an injured reserve. An injured player may be granted an exception to the minimum number of games required by the injured player obtaining a note by a licensed medical physician within two weeks of the injury and it must be submitted to the GFL office. The document must be completed on the licensed medical physician’s letterhead or equal and outline the nature of the injury with the expected recovery time. Any military personnel that are deployed during the season may be granted an exception once a letter by commanding officer has been given to the GFL; a player must play in at least 3 games prior to the playoffs in order for this to be accepted.

**TEAM PRACTICES:**

All team practices held after Dec. 1st 2014 will be considered “official”, all coaches and players participating in a practice, in any manner, must have all paperwork and league fees submitted to the league prior to participation. Any team found with players or coaches participating in a practice without submitting completed paperwork and league fees submitted to the league office will be subjected to fines and possible expulsion from the Gridiron Football League without warning.

**TEAM LEAGUE FEES (Applicable to AZ Teams only)**

The GFL will accept payment plan of $500 deposit due on or before September 15th, 2014, a payment of $2000 will be paid on or before October 15th, 2014 not later than 6:00PM, the next installment of $2000 will be due on or before December 31st, 2014 not later than 6:00PM, if payments are made as above the team will be considered in good standing. Any team that fails to comply will be removed from the Gridiron Football League team roster and considered not part of the league. In addition, all registered players from said team will be considered “released” allowing them to move to any other team in the league in good standing. Any monies will be submitted in either cashier check format or cash; any team whose check bounces for any reason will immediately be removed from the Gridiron Football League team roster – **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**PLAYER CONDUCT**

The GFL plays its’ home football games on high school grounds and each person is expected to follow all campus, state and federal guidelines the entire time they are on campus. Any failure to follow those guidelines can result in suspension and/or ban without a refund of any monies by the GFL.

Any team player ejected during a game will serve at least a one game suspension; the individual player must sign in and be on the sideline in his own jersey top for the entire game in order for their suspension to count. If any coach, assistant coach or owner is suspended – he/she will not be allowed to have contact with their said team and will have to work for GFL in any activities the BOD sees fit.

Any member of a team that is ejected during the season will lose the right to be selected to Gridiron Football League special honors such as but not limited to: All League Teams, All Star Teams, and Tournament Teams.

Helmet throwing will be an automatic ejection and possibly an additional one game suspension, any fighting act will be an automatic ejection and at least an additional two game suspension, a second fighting act in a season will be an automatic ejection and at least the remainder of the season suspension. Any act that disrupts GFL’s commitment to a family environment will result in at least a ½ game suspension. Any and all subsequent acts not outlined specifically will be handled on a case by case manner and the players past actions will be used in determining the length of any suspension. A single game suspension will carry over to the next season regardless of the team played for and will include any benefit games/preseason games plus the first regular season game. Multiple game suspensions will carry over to the next season regardless of the team played for and will include the benefit game/preseason games plus the remaining regular season games of the suspension.

Any team that leaves their bench area to heighten any non-football activity will be subject to financial fines, forfeit of games and/or suspension of play. Any incident will be reviewed by the GFL BOD and decided on a case by case basis.

All suspensions will only count for the next team game played, forfeits, bye weeks and rainouts do NOT count.

All ejections will be upheld without review, all game tapes will be reviewed and acts that should have carried an ejection will be enforced. The BOD reserves the right to modify how a suspension may be served out and will take into consideration any proposal/reprimand carried out by the suspended player’s team owner.

Any “act” by either “fan(s)” or member(s) of a team(s) that falls outside of the GFL’s commitment to a family atmosphere will be removed from the campus and will not be allowed to enter the campus until the BOD has decided whether it wishes to continue any relationship with said party.

**GFL Travel Games**

GFL Teams scheduled for travel are responsible for all transportation and housing costs that said team incurs. GFL Alliances whom are hosting GFL team will be responsible for all costs incurred to accommodate football event to include and not limited to facility costs for field and other facility usage as well as officiating costs and staff to accommodate a football event to include public attendance. The environment must be safe and supportive to GFL members and fans. GFL members to include players, staff and fans will be held to a zero tolerance policy in regards and not limited to adhering to a safe/family friendly environment on the field of play and also within the boundaries of the facility to include but not limited to locker rooms/concession area, parking lot. Retaliation to misconduct is deemed a major brief of conduct unbecoming of a safe/family environment and will be not tolerated to the extent of explosion for lifetime and possible legal actions.

**PLAYER UNIFORM**

Each player of a team must match in terms of uniform, this includes helmets, socks, jersey’s and pants. Players must wear all pads per NCAA guidelines.

All showing undershirts (showing from below the jersey to top of the pants) must match the uniform jersey top and must be tucked into the pants throughout the game. “Spatting” and shirts showing from the bottom of the sleeve of the jersey must be in team colors. Any towel must be white or team colors made of a moisture-absorbing material without markings, must be 4-inches by 12-inches, must be worn on the front or side of the belt and must not be altered in any way (Team logos are acceptable). Belts will not hang past the top of the thigh pad and will be unaltered. The enforcement will begin at the benefit games/preseason games and be fully enforced during any GFL game. GFL staff will monitor uniform requirements and will remove any player not matching. GFL Officials will monitor any safety equipment and handle per NCAA guidelines. Any player found in violation of the uniform policy will removed from the game and will not participate until the issue is corrected.

**MANDATORY EQUIPMENT**

All players shall wear the following mandatory equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection:

1. Soft knee pads at least 1/2-inch thick that must cover the knees and be covered by pants. No pads or protective equipment may be worn outside the pants. Players of a team shall wear pants of the same color and design.
2. A helmet with a face mask and a secured four- or six-point chin strap. Facemask and helmet must be certified and painted professionally. NO USE OF SPRAY PAINT! If a chin strap is not secured, it is a violation. Officials should inform players when all snaps are not secured without charging a timeout unless the player ignores the warning. Players of a team shall wear helmets of the same color and design, and facemasks of the same color. If eye shields are worn they must 100% clear with absolutely no tint.
3. Shoulder pads, hip pads with tailbone protector and thigh guards.
4. An intra-oral mouthpiece of any readily visible color (not white or transparent) with FDA-approved base materials (FDCS) that covers all upper teeth. It is recommended that the mouthpiece be properly fitted.
5. One jersey, with sleeves that completely cover the shoulder pads, that is not altered or designed to tear and conforms to Rule 1-4-4-f. The jersey must be full-length and tucked into the pants or not hang past the belt nor raise two inches above the belt line. Vests and/or a second jersey worn concurrently during the game are prohibited.
6. Clearly visible, permanent Arabic numerals on one jersey at least 8 and 10 inches in height front and back, respectively, of a color(s) in distinct contrast with the jersey. All players of a team shall have the same color and style numbers front and back. The individual bars must be approximately 1-1/2 inches wide.
7. Numbers on any part of the uniform shall correspond with the mandatory front and back jersey numbers. In the case of death or catastrophic injury or illness, a person may be memorialized by an insignia not greater than 1-1/2 inches diameter that displays the number, name or initials of the individual on the uniform or helmet.
8. All squad members must wear matching colored socks. (Exceptions: Unaltered knee braces, tape or a bandage to protect or prevent an injury, and barefoot kickers) (A.R. 1-4-4-I).

*NOCSAE\*: All players shall wear helmets that carry a warning label regarding the risk of injury and a manufacturer’s or reconditioner’s certification indicating satisfaction of NOCSAE test standards. All such reconditioned helmets shall show recertification to indicate satisfaction with the NOCSAE test standard.*

\*National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment.

Only equipment that meets the dimensions and specifications in the NCAA Football Rules and Interpretations may be used in Gridiron Football League competition.

*For any questions regarding legal and illegal equipment refer to the NCAA Rules found at the following website:* <http://www.ncaa.org/library/rules/2007/2007_football_rules.pdf> Rule 1 Art. 4 and 5

**PLAYER PAYMENTS**

The GFL is an adult amateur league that attempts to promote its players to the college and professional level. No GFL team/ownership will pay its players to play, will not pay its players for performance, pay the players league fees nor provide its individual team players anything that remotely goes against NCAA Guidelines. No team may pay for its player’s league fee at any time or under any circumstance. It is the intent of the GFL to make sure no player is compensated for his play and any “loop holes” in which owners attempt to pay their players will be automatically removed from participation in the league until the incident(s) are reviewed and ruled on by the BOD.

**PLAYER REINSTATEMENT**

Any player suspended for a season will be granted an appeal during the meeting prior to the benefit games/preseason games. The meeting will consist of GFL Ownership, BOD members, current GFL owners, Officiating Representative and Suspended Player. The player will be given not more than 15 minutes of an open forum to discuss his situation, the week following the meeting an email will be generated to all attending members (not including the team the player is intending to play for) and vote will be taken on the player’s upcoming season status. All voting members will be allowed to present any additional requirements for the player reinstatement. The Team Owner will receive an email outlining the possible reinstatement with any additional requirements. The suspended player will not be able to participate in ANY practices, games or GFL activities until a formal vote has been finalized. If the board votes not to reinstate that the subject is closed until the following season.

**PLAYER TRANSFERS**

Once a player has completed all paperwork, declared the team he will be playing for and paid all GFL monies the player is considered to be part of that team throughout the current season. Players may from time to time request to transfer from one team to another; any player who has been added to a Team roster and is requesting to transfer must first complete a league transfer request. When transfer request is submitted and has been received league will notify existing team organizers and requested transfer team organizers before completion of acceptance of any transfer. Player is not allowed to practice, play, or attend team functions with any other team than the team declared at registration without a league approved transfer form signed by both transfer team organizers and an authorized league representative. Team found to be in violation of transfer policy might be dropped or placed on “Suspended” status as deemed appropriate by GFL league representatives. A player suspended by its declared team for a justifiable cause will not be able to change teams until said suspension is complete. All team rules that deal with player transfer will also be in affect and players must abide by the team rules unless given written authorization by the GFL BOD. An individual team can release a player and must forward the players contact information to the league office via email by the teams’ ownership. Once the released players’ information is received by the league an email with that player’s information will be distributed to all GFL teams for review. A released team player is assumed to have completed his/her previous teams’ requirement and can move to any GFL team without a fee. Any player proven to have practice or played with another team prior to receiving final approval from the GFL will be suspended until the GFL BOD approves the final move. All player movement must be completed prior to the beginning of week 5 of the current season.

**TEAM REQUIREMENTS**

**LEAGUE CONTRACT**

Contract for GFL team must be signed by an ownership that clearly demonstrates the financial commitment, personal commitment and management skills expect to maintain the GFL’s commitment to its fans and players of a family environment as determined by the GFL Board of Directors.

The contract will commence from the date of signing until 12 months has expired and only considered complete once final approval has been obtained by the Board of Directors final at a meeting to occur not less than one month prior to the beginning of the season. At the time of final approval, if a team is not accepted for any reason all monies will refunded that were previously pre-paid for the upcoming season, minus deposit and any penalties deemed fair and equitable, including any forfeitures, damage to facilities or previously unpaid fines.

The GFL BOD will report only to the ownership and any issues regarding individual teams will be reported only from the individual team ownerships to the BOD of the GFL. Any issue that the BOD feels warrants an individual to be present or the individuals input will be directed via an email.

Only members of the team ownership will represent themselves in the ownership meetings, as determined by the GFL at the beginning of each season, team individuals will not be permitted to vote or present their thoughts or ideas.

**TEAM FINES**

Any fine accessed to a team either thru the Review Board or the GFL management will be paid in cash or certified check the Wednesday prior to the next game or the game may be considered a forfeited with additional fines accessed under the terms of a forfeited game.

**TEAM COLORS/LOGOS**

Team colors and logos must be presented to the BOD not less than one month following the original contract being signed. There will be not more than two teams with the same type of colors as decided by the BOD for final approval. Teams that purchase anything in regards to teams color prior to final BOD approval will not hold GFL responsible for any monies required to replace those items. Team must supply a logo in final form of at least 800 x 600, color separated, in either .jpeg format or .psd format not less than two months prior to the beginning of the season. The GFL will have unlimited use of the logo and team colors for anything deemed necessary for promotion of GFL and its league. GFL will not own the team logo or team colors at any time and will cease to use either in the event the team has provided written documentation that the team no longer wishes to maintain its membership status with the GFL or once the contract expires.

**UNIFORMS**

A complete set of matching professional looking uniforms consisting of white jerseys, dark colored jerseys and game pants must be in the teams’ possession not less than two weeks prior to the preseason game (if applicable), 1st regular season game or will forfeit each game and be subject to the appropriate fines until the requirement has been met. No logo from another non approved league will be present on uniforms. Each member of the team including coaches, team photographer, physician/trainer and support staff must wear matching collared shirts while on the sideline area. H2O technicians may wear t-shirts in team colors with the team logo. Home team will wear dark jersey top and visitor will wear white jersey top.

**FORFEITED GAMES**

Once the final teams have been determined for play in the GFL, any game that a team forfeits for any reason the teams ownership will be financially responsible for $1,000.00 for each game forfeited and must be paid each Wednesday until the end of the regular season or the team can field enough players to complete a game as determined by the GFL.

**TEAM SIDELINES**

Only registered members of the team with the appropriate paperwork completed with the GFL will be allowed to be in the field vicinity. All other individuals will have to sit in the fan designated areas of the game site. All paperwork must be completed one week prior to the game in order to be allowed field access. Field passes can be obtained with written request not less than the Thursday prior to a game; this will be reserved for potential sponsors and potential players for one week only and these individuals must sign release of liability forms. All injured or suspended players must be in their own uniform tops if they are to be on the sidelines. Teams found with unauthorized personnel on their sidelines will be fined $50 per person and those people will be removed immediately. Repeat offenders will be subjected to additional fines and/or suspensions as the BOD feels appropriate. The GFL reserves the right to ask for an ID at any time or to ask the person to leave the sideline. The team is responsible for any actions of anyone standing on their sideline at any time. Not more than 3 - 12 to 17 year team personnel may be on the sideline at any given time and must have all documentation signed with the league prior to entering the field or sidelines.

**TEAM WEBSITES**

Each team must maintain a website and every reasonable effort must be made to keep it updated with information. If at any time the league feels the website is not being updated on a regular basis, it reserves the right to maintain it with appropriate billing directed to the owner of the team. The billing must be paid the Wednesday prior to the game or the game will be forfeited with additional fines. Because we play at high school venues there will be no adult material present, no advertising for adult clubs, alcohol, tobacco products or anything that the GFL deems not appropriate for its family atmosphere. Team links will be maintained on the GFL website as long as the team is considered in good standing.

**PROGRAM ADVERTISING**

The GFL sells programs during the season. In these programs we will include team rosters, any news updates and sponsors for the league. If any team would like to have a sponsor included all they need to do is send the information to the league via the league email. Please do not abuse this as there is only so much space in the program. The ad needs to be approved by the league before any publication.

**TEAM PARTICIPATION**

The ownership of each team will ensure that each player/coach/support staff has all paperwork complete, all monies paid to GFL and paperwork turned into the GFL prior to allowing any person to participating in any practice. The ownership will be responsible for all team members and will ensure that they are worthy to participate in GFL activities and do have a positive public image.

The GFL has enjoyed years of successful sponsorship and prides itself on the partnerships it has developed over the years, should any team person or ownership do anything that would jeopardize those working relationships, the GFL reserves the right to take any appropriate steps to ensure those relationships are protected. This includes but not limited to failure to pay vendors, failure to control your respective team in any manner or participating in any activities that may directly or indirectly shed a bad image on the GFL or its membership.

**SCRIMMAGES**

The GFL may hold a Benefit Weekend Scrimmages one week prior to the regular season starting. Each team is expected to participate and every effort will be made by the individual teams to raise funds for a donation to the charitable organization. The rules for this scrimmage will be as follows:

40 minute half

10 minute halftime

Running clock except for TO or extended injury

4 downs to make line to gain (1st Down)

No rush on Punts or Field Goals

Punts are dead once b recovers

Gunners can go down but no contact on receiver

1 Time Out per half

**SCRIMMAGES WITH FELLOW GFL MEMBERS AND APPROVED ALLIANCES**

All scrimmages must be approved by the GFL ownership at least two weeks in advance of the scrimmage. GFL ownership will confirm the team financial status and team ownership will confirm that all players have paid their league fees. The GFL ownership will contact the commissioner of officials to provide at least 4 officials. The team ownerships will provide a sum of $225.00 total in cash to the lead official for disbursement prior to the game. Officials are not required but highly recommended. In addition, all GFL sportsmanship rules will be in full effect and any digression will be handled to the fullest extent of GFL rules.

Scrimmage must be videotaped and a copy sent directly to the league office

Not to exceed 60 plays per team (60 offense/60 defense)

4 downs to make line to gain (1st Down)

No rush on Punts or Field Goals

Punts are dead once receiving team recovers

Gunners can go down but no contact on receiver

1 Time Out per half

If any fighting act occurs the scrimmage will be ended and teams will immediately leave the field.

**ALL OTHER SCRIMMAGES/GAMES WITH NON-GFL MEMBERS OR NON-APPROVED ALLIANCE**

The GFL welcomes its membership to participate in outside organizations and will promote the individual/team accomplishments as long as said activities do not interfere with the GFL season or activities. The GFL reserves the right to express its opinion about what teams and organizations its membership will participate. It is the hope of the GFL that individual teams will follow advice of the GFL when participating against outside teams/organizations. The GFL will reserve its right to provide insurance, GFL logos, or permission to use its name should teams fail to follow the GFL’s recommendations. In addition, failure to follow the guidelines provided by the GFL may affect the acceptance on the next contract.

**LOCKER ROOM/FACILITES**

The GFL has secured the rights of each team to have clean and sanitary locker room for its use. Each team is responsible for ensuring that their locker room is clean following a game. All debris must be cleaned off of the floor and put into garbage cans, all toilets flushed and locker room swept out. Following the end of the game a member of the team will have a member of the GFL staff sign off on the locker room prior to leaving. If a team repeatedly proves that it can’t maintain a clean/sanitary locker room than it will forfeit its right to use and players will be required to come to the game site fully dressed.

**PLAYOFFS**

TBD teams will qualify for the Championship Tournament;

The following criteria will be used in selecting the top 2 teams:

Won/loss percentage

Head to Head

Points Against

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

The top four teams as determined above will hold a single elimination championship tournament with the final two teams playing in the Championship. The winner of the Championship will receive a trophy for MVP and Team.

**PRESSBOX**

This area is to be used for GFL personnel only; no member of a team may use the press box for any reason.

**LEAGUE GAME FILM/PHOTOGRAPHY**

The GFL has hired Agape Productions to film all Non-travel GFL games. Each team will receive a copy of their game plus a game film of their next opponent prior to Tuesday of the following week. Only a team owner or coach will be allowed to secure a copy of their game plus the upcoming opponent from Agape. If the opponent is traveling or the game is play outside of the Phoenix area a game film will be available not later than the Tuesday following the next game. If the team owner and/or head coach does not pick up the game tape from the game site then the team is responsible for picking up from Agape Productions in Mesa or pay a shipping fee to have it mailed. Each team may make additional copies of these tapes, however the Championship game will not be copied in any manner and those DVD’s will be available solely for purchase thru Agape Productions. League photography will supply 4 x6 prints for website use only; all other uses or duplication is strictly forbidden.

**RULES QUESTIONS/PLAY REVIEW**

The Commissioner of Officials is available via email for any questions regarding the Gridiron Football League or NCAA playing rules. Each team owner may request a play review via email; the team owner must accurately describe the time of the game, play and question the legality of the play. Blankets statements such as “they blocked below the waist”, “they held” during the entire game will NOT warrant any review by the Commissioner of Officials. Should thru game review by the individual teams any action be seen of the opposing team that breaks any of the GFL mandates, code of honor or general sportsmanship rules, the team owner must forward to the President all pertinent information for review via email. The Review board will review and make a determination as to course of action to be taken, if any.

**GFL HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Leadership of GFL currently holds a full time job on top of running the GFL and other football interests. It is expected that all members respect the “down” time, family time or understand that they are unavailable for everyone’s non-emergency questions. **The preferred forum for requests of information will be email**. Sunday’s all members of GFL and staff will NOT be available for ANY reason. All calls placed outside of that time frame or placed by non-owners will be ignored.

**WEATHER CANCELLATIONS**

Every year there is at least 1 or 2 weeks where Mother Nature dictates that football games will not be played. Game management will meet at 5AM to make a determination on whether games will be played or not. The decision will be made based on several factors including potential for injury, potential for destroying the field, standing water and the host schools input. If the GFL can secure facilities that pose no danger to its players or potential damage to the playing surface then the games may be moved there. Team owners will be notified as early as possible as to whether games will be moved to a different locations or whether games will be played that day. Should the games not be played the teams owners and President will determine as to where the games will be replayed in the schedule.

**SCHEDULE**

Each team can expect 10 games a season to be played with possible one bye, in addition a week or two may be postponed due to weather issues. The GFL will make every attempt to ensure that all teams enjoy a 10 game schedule, however because of financial restraints or other agreements the schedule may be reduced as needed, the team owners and GFL BOD will come to a majority agreement when less than a 10 game season will be needed. GFL understands many of its players, coaches and personnel enjoy activities that take away from a commitment to play on certain days.

**GAME START TIMES**

The first game of the day at each site will start promptly at its published time and each subsequent game will start not less than 30 minutes following the previous game or its published start time should that time be greater than 30 minutes. All members of GFL are expected to allow plenty of travel time to arrive in a timely manner so that all games start promptly. The facilities will be opened to all teams/team members/fans 1.5 hours prior to the first game scheduled start.

**GFL RULES OF THE GAME**

The Gridiron Football League uses the NCAA rules to govern the on field play; in addition it incorporates accepted officiating philosophies used in college and NFL. The NCAA 2007 Rule book will be used at all venues with only the following exceptions:

**Exceptions to NCAA Rules for Gridiron Football League:**

Rule 1, Section 2 – The field (May use NFHS inbounds marks as needed and NFHS goal posts)

Rule 1, Section 3 – GFL will use common league balls as provided by GFL ownership, 3 balls per game (Official NFL Wilson Game Ball “The Duke”)

Rule 1, Section 4 m – Gloves do not have to be gray in color

Rule 1, Section 4 p – No restriction on the number of players allowed wearing towels on offense or defense in addition the team logo may professionally sewed on the towel.

Rule 1, Section 8 – Players may have electronic equipment for communication with sideline.

Rule 2 – No 40 second clock play clock will be used.

Rule 2, Section 3, Art. 2b – Players may not “slide” to block below the waist.

Rule 3, Timing of the game: Clock will start on the ready for play except for

* Kickoffs – NCAA Guidelines
* Following a Time out – NCAA Guidelines
* At 2 minutes of each half the clock will stop and a 30 second time out will occur, following the next play standard NCAA guidelines will take place.

Rule 9, Section 1 e – There is no blocking below the waist, the definition of below the waist will be below the beltline and not the thigh pads.

Rule 9, Section 2 b – The player that scores may spike the ball away from opposing players or celebrate in any manner that can’t construed as a taunt to the other team.

Rule 9, Section 2, Art. 4 – The player will be removed from the game and suspended indefinitely from the league.

Rule 9, Section 5 – Players that participate in a fight or fighting acts will be suspended for the remainder of the game and a minimum of 2 games. A second time during the season will earn them a minimum of at least the remainder of the season suspension.

Rule 12 – No replay will be used.

*http://www.ncaa.org/library/rules/2007/2007\_football\_rules.pdf*

**Additional GFL Rules:**

Any player that throws their helmet on the field of play or sidelines – will be ejected from the game and serve a minimum of 1 game suspension.

Any player/coach ejected from a game will be suspended 1 additional game.

Any team and/or team member that threatens or endangers fellow players, opposing players, coaches, opposing coaches, fans, GFL officials, game officials, school personnel or school property will be suspended indefinitely.  In addition the GFL and its membership will use any and all resources to ensure the responsible parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Team Owner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy of the 2015 GFL Manual, as owner of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Team Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand that it is my responsibility to read all articles herein and enforce not only the written word but also the spirit in which the manual was written. I am agree that as the owner of the \_\_\_\_\_\_Team Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that the entire team is informed of the rules of the Gridiron Football League and the information within the manual, I will also ensure that my team will enforce the rules of the Gridiron Football League without except. I understand that I am ultimately responsible for all team affairs and financial responsibilities.

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*Team Owner* *Team Name*