

Thunder Bay Minor Football Association

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

This association known as Thunder Bay Minor Football Association herein shall be referred to as "TBMFA"

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PURPOSE

Section A Mission Statement

TBMFA will provide Thunder Bay's youth with a safe, high quality sports program which serves our community by promoting the benefits of the sport of football and the benefits of an active, health lifestyle to players, volunteers and other participants.

Section B Purpose

The Thunder Bay Minor Football Association (T.B.M.F.A.) is organized to develop and operate a Youth Football in Thunder Bay and surrounding area. Our goal is to seek to implant in the youth of our community, the ideals of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAMWORK, HONESTY, LOYALTY, COURAGE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND REVERENCE, so that they may be FINER, STRONGER and HAPPIER YOUTH who will grow to be better citizens of and for their communities. The Thunder Bay Minor Football Association strives to make the game "fun" for all boys and girls. Coaches must constantly keep in mind the ages of the participants. The program stresses learning lessons of value far beyond the playing days of the boys and girls involved, such as: self-discipline, teamwork, concentration, friendship, leadership and good sportsmanship. With such goals in mind, and by providing an opportunity to participate in an organized and supervised environment with emphasis on maximum safety and participation, Thunder Bay Minor Football is committed to provide young men and women an enjoyable, unique and valuable experience. T.B.M.F.A. has supported the youth of Thunder Bay for many years. It is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization committed to the youth of Thunder Bay. Every member of T.B.M.F.A.'s Board of Directors and Coaching Staff is committed to three objectives: Safety, Participation over competition and Education over performance. Our Coaches will not be judged on their win/loss record, but on their ability to make the game "fun" for our children. We must remember that this activity is for "THE KIDS". It is our philosophy to provide a strong emphasis on the core fundamentals of football – teamwork, commitment, work ethic, respect, and sportsmanship. This philosophy is critical and will serve to enhance the growth, mentally and physical development of our children.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Section A The Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors may consist of five (5) elected Executive Officers.
2. The Executive Officers shall be designated as follows:
 - i. PRESIDENT
 - ii. VICE PRESIDENT
 - iii. SECRETARY
 - iv. TREASURER
 - v. GENERAL MANAGER
3. The remaining Executive Members will include (8) elected Executive Directors:
 - i. EQUIPMENT MANAGER
 - ii. FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR
 - iii. TYKE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
 - iv. PUBLICITY DIRECTOR
 - v. WEB SITE DIRECTOR
 - vi. EVENTS COORDINATOR
 - vii. VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
 - viii. REGISTRAR
4. The Executive has the right to add or reduce the number of Executive members but every attempt will be made to maintain a 13 member executive panel.
5. Duties and areas of responsibilities shall be described in the By-Laws as set out by TBMFA.
6. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of the Executive at either an official meeting, or electronically (text or e-mail) within 48 hours or once a quorum is reached. The President shall cast the last vote in order to avoid influencing or to settle a tie-breaker.

Section B Terms of Office

1. Members of the Executive shall remain for a period of one (1) year. The Executive Officers will remain for a period of two (2) years, alternating three (3) Officers (Vice President, General Manager, Secretary) in odd numbered years and two (2) Officers (President, Treasurer) in even number years.
2. Removal from the office shall be by resignation or majority vote of the Executive.
3. A majority vote of the Executive shall be required to fill a vacancy on the Executive.
4. Each Executive position shall have one (1) vote, except in the event of a conflict of interest, which will be determined by the Executive.
5. In order to be an Executive Officer a person must first be a member of the Executive Directors for a term of one (1) year in succession to their running for an Executive Officer position.
6. Past members shall be available as a resource for consultation should the need arise.

Section C Membership

1. Membership in TBMFA is automatic to the parents or individual eighteen years of age or over who has paid a player registration fee and all coaches, staff and members of the Executive.
2. Voting at the AGM is open to members as listed in the membership with one vote only for each family.

ARTICLE IV

AMENDMENTS

This constitution can be amended by a majority vote of the Executive and general membership (as outlined in Article III, Section C above) present at a meeting called for such a purpose. The amended constitution will be made available prior to regular season play.

Any amendment to the By-Laws will be by vote of the Executive. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of the Executive at either an official meeting, or electronically (text or e-mail) within 48 hours or once a quorum is reached. The President shall cast the last vote in order to avoid influencing or to settle a tie-breaker.

General Membership may submit an application for change to the constitution fourteen (14) days prior an AGM.

ARTICLE V

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of TBMFA shall start on January 01 and end on December 31st.

ARTICLE VI

LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

Section A Team Composition

Every player on each team must participate in each game. Coaches are required to set up separate offensive and defensive teams. Although players are not permitted to play both ways, occasional exceptions are permitted. (See By-Law Article II Section A and B for further clarification)

Exceptions:

1. Injured players
2. Players sitting for disciplinary reasons, with a declaration TBA on the game roster
3. Less than 24 players available

Section B Registration

1. Every player must be registered and show proof of age (baptismal or birth certificate, citizenship papers or passport).
2. No registration shall be granted after the second game has been played, exhibition or otherwise, except with the approval of the Executive.
3. Any coach or official who allows an ineligible and/or uninsured player to participate within TBMFA shall be subject to minimum 1 game suspension as deemed by the Executive.
4. Players will not be told where they will play or who they will play for, but only that a coach will be contacting them.

ARTICLE VII

COACHES AND OFFICIALS

Section A Coaches

1. All coaches and team managers shall be registered (Respect in Sports and Volunteer Police Check, (see By-Law Article III for TBMFA registering requirements) with TBMFA, and shall be approved annually by the Executive.
2. The Executive reserves the right to choose the head coach for each summer and fall teams. Each coach will then be allowed to select on assistant coach under the guidance of the Coaches GM.
3. A team shall not have more than six (6) registered members at the team bench during a game.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the head coach and/or team manager to ensure that the players of their team are advised of all TBMFA events.
5. Refer to Constitution Article XII-B regarding Coaches/Managers Disqualification.

Section B Game Officials

There shall be qualified officials appointed for each game. These officials shall be representatives appointed by the TBMFA Officials Association (OA).

ARTICLE VIII

EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING FIELDS

Section A Equipment

1. All equipment used within TBMFA must meet the approval of the Executive, and must be maintained in proper and safe repair. Footwear shall be with a molded stud or tread sole with protrusions not exceeding 3/8" (non-metal)
2. Any player not complying with the above standard shall be removed from the playing field by the game official and shall not return to the game until his footwear and equipment conforms to this regulation.
3. Collection and storage of equipment in the off season shall be dry and temperature controlled and be as deemed necessary by the Executive.

Section B Ball

The standard ball to be used shall be a rubberized ball of a weight and size approved by the Executive prior to the season start.

Section C Playing Field

The playing field shall be designated by the Executive.

ARTICLE IX

GAME RULES

Section A Basic Rules

1. All games shall be played under CAFA and Football Manitoba rules with amendments as authorized by Executive.
2. No games shall be played during a lightning storm. Any game in progress called due to lightning will be rescheduled and replayed commencing where it ended if under 25 points. If the game is at half-time and if the points spread is more than 25+ points the game is considered complete.
3. Each tyke team will play with eight (8) players, and two coaches per team maximum will be allowed on the field at all times. (See By-Law Article IV Tyke Rules for clarification)
4. All games shall be made up of four (4) quarters, consisting of two (2) halves. Each quarter shall consist of twelve (12) minutes playing time with time stoppages as follows:
 - a. After all major scores (all divisions); therefore, no time is running during converts or lining up for kick-off.
 - b. After each play in the last three (3) minutes of each half (atom, peewee, and bantam division only).
 - c. At the discretion of the official for measurement, injuries, etc.
 - d. In the tyke division only, the game will consist of fifteen (15) minute quarters straight time, stoppage for injuries and one (1) minute stopped time in the last minute of each half and will result in 3 pays not including a convert.

The restarting of the clock after the above stoppages will be in accordance with the Canadian Amateur Football Rules.

(See By-Law Article IV for Atom Rule for Clarifications)

Section B Defaults

Defaulting a game shall make the offending team ineligible for the playoffs. This rule may be appealed to the Executive by a written report by a team representative. The Executive shall have the power and authority to rescind the action if, in their judgement, the reasons for the default was beyond the control of the team officials.

Section C Cancellation or Scheduled Revisions.

Any cancellation or scheduled revisions shall be upon the approval of the Vice President of League Operations, in Consultation with the President.

Section D Grievances

. All grievance protests must be submitted to the Executive, in writing and postmarked within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident. All grievances will be dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner. All findings and decisions of the Executive shall be final.

ARTICLE X

PLAYOFFS

Section A Player Eligibility

A player must have participated in at least half of the regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs. The only exception to this rule will be injury or extenuating circumstances as deemed by the Executive.

Section B Team Matching's

1. Bantam, Peewee, and Atom Divisions. Based on the final standings, Team 1 and Team 4 will play one (1) semi-final game. Team 2 and Team 3 will play in one (1) semi-final game.
2. The winners of the semi-final series will meet in a one (1) game final to decide the division championships.
3. Tyke Division. To be determined after registration

Section C Tie Breakers

Playoff and championship games that ends in a tie shall be decided in the following manner: ball possession will be determined by a coin toss; team 1 will start on the offending teams 25 yard line and attempt to score; if unsuccessful/and not able to get 1st down, then Team 2 makes their attempt; this continues until either team scores and in the same chance the other team cannot.

ARTICLE XI

FINANCES

Section A Director Responsible

1. All finances shall be handled by the Treasurer, who shall operate an account in any recognized financial institution. Signing officers of TBMFA will be the Treasurer and 2 other Executive Officers
2. The annual financial statement shall be prepared by the Treasurer, and audited by appointees of the Executive, other than the signing officers, prior to the annual general meeting.

Section B Direction of Funds

Individual fund raising for the sole benefit of the individual team is strictly prohibited. All monies derived from fundraising must be for the benefit of TBMFA as a whole.

ARTICLE XII

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Section A Players

1. A player can be disqualified by an official, or any member of the Executive; however, in a game situation, the official in charge must be consulted and he retains the right to final decisions.
2. Reasons and penalties for disqualification shall be governed by this constitution and TBMFA By-Laws in conjunction with CAFA and Football Manitoba rules.

3. Misconduct plays
 - a. Butt block: no player, including the ball carrier, shall deliberately use his/her helmet to butt or ram an opponent.
 - b. Butt tackle: no player shall intentionally strike the runner with the crown or top of his/her helmet, or with the face mask.
 - c. Head Tackling or "Clothesline": it shall be illegal to tackle around the head in the open field, or straight arm tackle to the head, commonly referred to as the "clothesline"
 - d. Spearing: spearing is the deliberate and malicious driving of the helmet into a player who is down, or is held so that he/she is going down, or whose forward progress has been stopped, or who is in a position unable to protect himself/herself. A player shall be called for spearing even if he/she commits himself/herself before the ball is dead, if he/she uses the head and helmet as the primary or main point of force.
 - e. Center Protection Rule: for punts and converts, there will be no blatant contact with the center until he/she comes up to a "set" position. The infraction will carry a penalty of 15 yards and disqualification.
4. If a player is ejected from the game, the incident will be reviewed immediately after the game by the President or Vice President and one (1) Executive member and the official present at the game. This information will be brought to the Executive and the Head Coach for the ejected player, for further decision on game suspensions.

Section B Coaches/Managers

1. Conduct unbecoming a coach/manager (ie. Fighting, swearing, chastisement of officials, etc.) may result in disqualification by the Executive and/or expulsion from TBMFA.
2. Any coach/manager who allows or instructs his/her players to butt block, or butt tackle, head tackle or "clothesline", and/or spear anyone on the opposing team, WILL BE REMOVED from the position of coach and will be called up in front of the Executive.
3. If a coach receives two (2) objectionable conduct penalties in one game, he/she is automatically ejected from the game, and will leave the field and stadium for the remainder of the day. The incident will be reviewed immediately after the game by the President or Vice President and one (1) Executive member and the official present at the game. This information will be brought to the Executive for further decision on game suspensions.

ARTICLE XIII

DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

Any revenue which may accrue to TBMFA during the time it is in operation shall be used for further attainment of the objectives for which the club is formed.

In the event of the winding up of the affairs of TBMFA all assets including cash on hand or in the bank, after payment of all outstanding accounts and other liabilities shall be assigned, transferred and paid to a recognized charitable or non-profit organization as determined by the Executive prior to the final dissolution.