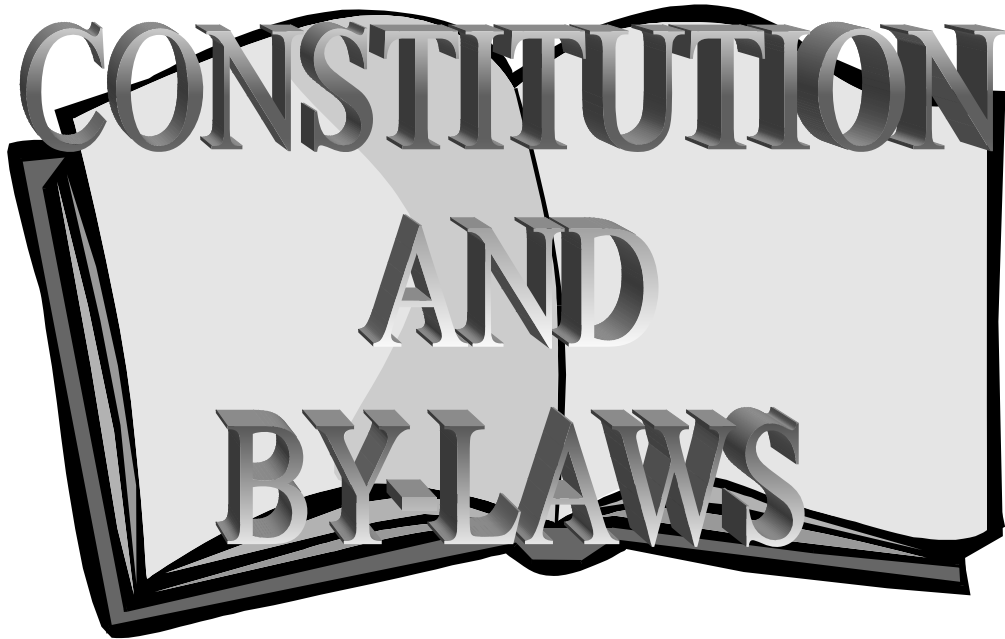

Adopted May 19, 1999

SUBURBAN
PAROCHIAL
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE



UPDATE #16

Feb 2020

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SUBURBAN PAROCHIAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION

Article I **Name**

This association shall be known as the Suburban Parochial Football League (the "SPFL" or "League").

Article II **Philosophy**

The SPFL is based upon the belief that football is educationally sound and plays an important part in the development of the participant's physical, mental, emotional and moral growth. The SPFL offers experiences through competition and should enhance the educational programs of the member institutions.

Article III **Purpose**

The purpose of the SPFL is to offer those experiences needed to reach the educational objectives of interscholastic athletics as stated in the philosophy of the League. The League shall provide a means for member schools to enhance their instructional program. The SPFL shall provide the participants with opportunities to learn skills and develop moral and emotional patterns beyond those offered in the school. Major emphasis will be placed on learning through competition as well as acquiring the skills of the sport. These activities shall be modified to meet the physical, mental and emotional levels of the participants.

Article IV **Eligibility**

Section I All participants of the SPFL must be currently enrolled in respective member school as a full-time student, or enrolled in an approved Sister School or RE Program (see player eligibility section of the Bylaws).

Section II Any participant whose fifteenth (15th) birthday is before August 15th of the current school year shall be declared ineligible for varsity competition. Any participant whose thirteenth (13th) birthday is before August 15th of the current school year shall be declared ineligible for junior varsity competition.

Article V **Administration**

Section I Management of this association shall be vested in the SPFL Board (the "Board") and the respective school athletic directors or designees

Section II The members of the SPFL Board shall be:
Commissioner
Secretary

Treasurer

Section III Commissioner - Appointment and Duties:

a.) The League Commissioner shall be rotated every two (2) years among the member schools. The rotation order and term are listed below. The League Commissioner shall be any person identified by the Athletic Director of the school who is next in the rotation below. Members shall use reasonable efforts to identify their Commissioner and notify the League at least ninety (90) days prior to the end of the then current term. The League Commissioner's term shall begin on January 1st of the first year of the term listed below, with the outgoing Commissioner and the incoming Commissioner working together to transition duties between the October and February meetings. The Commissioner's term shall end on December 31st of the the second year listed below (i.e. a '15-'16 term of office shall commence on January 1st in 2015 and expire on December 31st in 2016). If a school declines to appoint a Commissioner, the next school in order will be given the opportunity. (Note: Any new members will be added to the end of the rotation list after their two-year probation period has expired.)

<u>School</u>	<u>Term</u>
St. John of the Cross	'20-'21
Team United	'22-'23
Visitation	'24-'25
St. Michael	'26-'27
St. Francis	'28-'29
St. Joseph	'30-'31
Immaculate Conception	'31-'32

b.) The duties of the Commissioner shall be to:

- 1) Chair all League meetings
- 2) Set-up and appoint member schools' representatives to committees when needed
- 3) Supervise all League functions
- 4) Assist with League weigh-in
- 5) Uphold the League's Constitution/By-Laws

Section IV Secretary - Election and Duties:

a.) The Secretary shall be elected to office every three (3) years (2014/2017/2020, etc.) by a two-thirds majority vote of the League members. Should the secretary resign or be removed from office before his/her term is completed, a replacement will be appointed by the commissioner to serve out the remaining term.

b.) The duties of the Secretary shall be to:

- 1) Assist the Commissioner at all League meetings
- 2) Take and distribute the minutes for all meetings
- 3) Validate and distribute all member school's rosters
- 4) Oversee & assist with League weigh-ins
- 5) Uphold the League's Constitution/By-Laws

Section V Treasurer - Election and Duties:

a.) The Treasurer shall be elected to office every three (3) years (2015/ 2018/ 2021/ etc.) by a two-thirds majority vote of the League members. Should a treasurer resign or be removed from office before his/her term is completed, a replacement will be appointed by the commissioner.

b.) The duties of the Treasurer shall be to:

- 1) Assist the commissioner at all League meetings
- 2) Manage and direct the finances of the SPFL - recommend any increase/decrease in annual League fees based on League expenses
- 3) Provide written statements of League finances at all regular meetings
- 4) Oversee the Head of Officials in charge of assigning referees
- 4) Assist with League weigh-in
- 5) Uphold the League's Constitution/By-Laws

Section VI The Commissioner, with the assistance of the Treasurer, shall propose to each member school the expense necessary to facilitate the League for the new season. A recommendation of a fee increase or decrease shall be discussed at the October meeting with voting on the increase/decrease to take place at the February meeting.

Section VII The athletic directors or a duly appointed designee of each member school shall determine the rules governing eligibility, make any rule change recommendations that are in the best interest of the SPFL, and assist in arranging schedules when necessary.

Article VI Meetings

Section I There will be four (4) meetings each year of member schools to discuss general League business and set the schedule for the upcoming season. The meetings will be held as follows:

- February (Discuss rule/bylaw changes, eligibility pools, player numbers and realignment)
- May (Confirm teams and approve schedule; discuss rule/bylaw changes)
- August (Discuss Weigh-in and other pre-season business)
- October (Discuss the previous season and identify initiatives for the following year)

Section II Special meetings may be called by the Commissioner, Secretary or Treasurer if deemed necessary or by request and notification of two (2) or more of the League members. The Board shall determine if a special meeting is warranted based on the request. Member schools shall be notified in writing a minimum of seven (7) days before the meeting. The Secretary may call for an electronic vote via email if, in the reasonable judgment of the Secretary, such vote should not wait for the next in-person meeting, provided however, League members shall be given a minimum of seven (7) days to respond to any such electronic vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, matter involving (i) player eligibility or player pools, or (ii) Constitution/Bylaw amendments shall not be the subject of any electronic vote.

Section III Each member school must have an authorized representative (designee) empowered to set schedules and vote on proposals at all meetings requested.

- a.) Member schools not represented at any League meeting shall be subject to probation for one (1) calendar year.
- b.) A second offense while on probation will result in immediate suspension from all League events.

Article VII Voting

All issues involving the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote, while a simple majority vote shall apply to issues involving amendments to the By-laws or any general League business. Voting rights are vested in the SPFL member programs (*See Art. IX Membership for member definition*). Satellite programs (Sister schools/ RE programs) do not have individual voting rights.

Article VIII Amendments

The Constitution/By-Laws may be amended only at the February meeting or the May meeting, provided a quorum, consisting of a majority of members, is present. Any member may propose an amendment and such proposal must be sent to the Board sixty (60) days before either the February or May meeting; and the Board shall work with the sponsor school to draft a proposed rule or amendment for distribution to all League members thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting, at which a vote will take place. A two year waiting period will be imposed on reintroducing any proposal that was defeated by vote before the proposal may be considered again.

Article IX Membership

Section I The SPFL shall consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) member programs with no more than two eight-team divisions. A program is defined by the name entered on the game schedule. A program may have both a JV and a Varsity team or may have a team at only one level. A program may consist of rostered players from various organizations as approved by the league, but is still considered to be one program with one vote.

Section II Programs seeking entry into the SPFL shall petition the League in writing no later than January 1st. The League shall review any petition received and vote on acceptance or rejection of the petitioning school(s) at the February meeting. Notification shall be provided in writing for acceptance or to state the reason(s) for rejection.

Section III New member(s) shall automatically serve a two-year probation period before becoming a permanent member of the League. During the probation new member(s) shall be allowed to partake in all League activities but shall not be able to serve on the Board or vote until their probation has expired. While the school is on probation the League shall have the power to reprimand or expel the new member should the integrity of the SPFL and its Constitution/By-Laws be compromised without due process. Former member programs may petition the league for re-entry as a stand-alone program (JV, Varsity, or both levels) after having been rolled into another member program as a Sister School; the 2 year probationary period will be waived and he program will be reinstated with full member voting right at the time of approval.

Article X Awards

Section I There shall be a plaque(s) awarded to the team(s) finishing in first place during the regular season at both the JV & Varsity level. Should there be more than one team tied for first place based on final season record (including any "crossover" games), a plaque will be awarded designating co-champions or tri-champions, as appropriate. Should there be more than one conference, first place plaque shall be awarded at both the JV and Varsity level for each conference. A League or conference playoff championship game shall require, at a minimum, a 1st place trophy.

Section II While there shall be a first place season conference championship award and a conference playoff championship game and award (should there be more than one conference), at the

Junior Varsity level the League stresses that this level shall be considered instructional. The League recommends that member schools encourage the younger boys to participate by offering additional playing time (5th quarter/B games) and making the experience fun while learning the game.

Section III There may be an All-Conference Team selection on the Varsity level only. The number of selections per team is as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u># of Selections</u>
1 st	8
2 nd	7
3 rd	6
4 th	5
5 th	4
6 th	3
7 th & Below	2

The respective school's coaches shall make their team's selections. Certificates will be provided by the League and signed by the Commissioner.

Article XI

Expulsion

Section I Any blatant violation of the SPFL Constitution/By-Laws or the spirit of its philosophy shall render the offending school eligible for expulsion.

Section II Any complaint concerning a member school must be submitted in writing co-signed by either the Athletic Director or Principal to the Board for evaluation and action. Depending on the severity of the complaint the Commissioner shall appoint a committee consisting of the secretary, treasurer (unless their respective school(s) is party to the complaint) and two (2) neutral member schools. The committee shall review and investigate the complaint after which recommendations shall be presented to the member schools within thirty (30) days. The Commissioner shall notify any party named in writing within fifteen (15) days of receiving the complaint with a copy of the letter forwarded to the school's administrators – the school named in the complaint as the school bringing the complaint. The Board or the committee shall make one or more recommendations to the League members. The member schools not directly involved in the complaint (all schools other than the school initiating the complaint and the school that is the subject of the complaint) shall vote on the matter at the League's next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting called by the Commissioner if deemed necessary. Any complaint brought by a Board member as part of the regular discharge of his/her duties shall not be considered a complaint brought by any particular school. The League's decision shall be binding and the party(s) involved shall abide by the ruling given. Any expulsion of a member school shall require a two-thirds majority vote. There shall be no appeal process.

Article XII

Withdrawal

Any League member wanting to voluntarily withdraw from the SPFL shall make their intentions known in writing to the Board at least 180 days (6 months) in advance, and such withdrawing member shall fulfill all outstanding obligations, financial and otherwise.

BY-LAWS

Article I

Alignment and Contests

Section I Alignment: If practical, based on the number of teams, the League may be organized into two (2) conferences, a Gold Conference and a Silver Conference (each a “Conference”). If divided into two (2) conferences, the League shall hold a playoff and championship game for both conferences. Conference alignment, if any, shall be determined each year by no later than the May meeting and shall require a majority vote of League members in attendance. Conference alignment, if any, will be based upon, among other factors, the school’s team size, three (3) year school enrollment forecast, the overall team/school success, school rivalries and the ability of schools to participate in B games that year.

Section II Regular Season: There shall be contests held at the following levels: Junior Varsity (5th & 6th grade) and Varsity (7th & 8th grade). The League will use its best efforts to schedule seven (7) regular season games for each member school. Schedules will be set such that if the League is divided into Conferences, teams will compete against every other team in their conference at least once. Cross-over games between the two Conferences are desirable and will be scheduled as allowable.

Section III Playoff Week: There shall be a League playoff after the end of the regular season. Playoff structure will be dependent on the number of teams competing and will be voted on at the May meeting. Any teams not making the playoffs will play each other during the first week following the end of the regular season (the “Playoff Week”), extending their regular seasons by an additional week, if team numbers allow. Member programs are expected to participate in post season play. Only reasons of insufficient players or other significant circumstances shall be considered to exempt a team from competing.

Section IV Play-off Host Sites: League schools which were scheduled to host fewer home games during the regular season shall have priority to host a game during the Playoff Week (cancelled home games will still count as games hosted for purposes of this Section III). If two teams are slated to play each other in the Playoff Week and both teams hosted the same number of regular season games, then priority to host the Playoff Week game will go to the higher seeded team. Playoff hosts will be initially scheduled at the time of approval of the final schedule and such scheduled hosts shall secure fields for the Playoff Week, but these sites may change due to scheduled hosts playing each other in the Playoff week and therefore, Playoff Week hosts shall be finally determined in accordance with the procedure set forth above at the October meeting. To the extent a playoff field is secured that is not needed by a host school, that host school will use best efforts to allow another school to use that field. Playoff seeds will be determined as follows:

1. Playoff rankings are first determined by overall League records expressed as winning percentages (wins/ games played) with ties counting as $\frac{1}{2}$ of a win;
 - a. Example:
 - i. 5-1 (.833)
 - ii. 5-1-1 (.786)
 - iii. 5-2 (.714)
 - iv. 4-2 (.667)
2. If two or more teams have identical winning percentages, the higher seed will be the winner of the head-to-head competition. In cases of ties among three or more teams, in order to ‘win’ the head-to-head tie-breaker, a team must have defeated **all** of the other teams involved in the tie;

3. If after applying the head-to-head tie-breaker there is still a tie among two or more teams, seeding will be determined by calculating 'play-off points' which is the number of victories accumulated by the teams defeated by the subject team. In other words, your play-off points are the number of wins recorded by the teams you have beaten. Teams will then be seeded according to the highest number of play-off points calculated.
 - a. Note: If after applying the point tie breaker, one team has the highest number of play-off points, that team will be seeded next and the remaining teams will revert back to head-to-head and start the process over again (See Exhibit B Ex #1)
 - b. Note: If after applying the play-off point tie-breaker, two or more teams are tied for the most play-off points, those teams will be broken out as a separate group from any other teams in the pool and revert back to head-to-head to start the process all over. Teams with fewer play-off points, if any, will be set aside and seeded after the other group (tied for the most play-off points) has been seeded (See Exhibit B Ex. #2)
4. If after applying the play-off point tie-breaker teams are still tied, then seeding will be determined by the greatest point differential between games with common opponents excluding head to head competition among the tied teams (16 point maximum per game—a forfeited game will be counted as 16 points). (See Exhibit B Ex. #3)
5. If after applying the point differential tie-breaker teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine seeding.

Section V Championship Week: The winners of the playoff games will play for the Championship in the final week of the season. Every effort shall be made to play the Championship Games on a neutral field, funded by the League.

Section VI Officiating: Registered Illinois High School Association referees shall be used for all League games. The assignment chairman (Head of Officials) shall provide member schools with a list of all the League referees and rating cards. It will be the responsibility of each member school to rate the referees at both the JV and Varsity level and forward the cards to the Head of Officials each week. Three (3) referees shall work all games including the 5th quarter/B game.

Section VII Insurance: All League members shall maintain adequate insurance for those players competing on their teams (JV & Varsity). This shall be the responsibility of the individual member schools. The League is not liable for any school that does not obtain proper insurance.

Section VIII Concussion Training: All League members are responsible for ensuring all staff/coaches are compliant with Illinois State Law Public Act 99-0245, The Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act. The league is not responsible or liable for verifying training status.

Section IX Medical Facilities: The home team shall either have a certified athletic trainer, paramedic or doctor on site during all contests or have reasonable access to medical treatment (reasonable shall be defined as within fifteen (15) minutes of the field).

Section X Crowd Control: During all contests players, coaches and school personnel (managers, ball boys, athletic directors, etc.) must remain within the 25-yard lines and one yard back from the playing field. No non-coaching parents are allowed within the 25-yard lines. It is the responsibility of each member school to control its crowd.

Section XI Forfeits: Should any team be delayed for any reason in arriving at the designated game field, the late team shall have fifteen (15) minutes to take the field after the scheduled start time of the game before the game is ruled a forfeit win for the other team. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the late team shall use all reasonable efforts to notify the other team at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start time that they are running late, and both teams shall use all reasonable efforts to play the game and avoid forfeit situations.

Article II Competition Rules

The SPFL shall abide by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rules relating to competition and game play, except for the following League additions or modifications:

Section I Scoring: Scoring shall be determined as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) Touchdown: | 6 points |
| 2) Field Goal: | 3 points |
| 3) Safety: | 2 points |
| 4) Extra Point Conversion (kicking only): | 2 points |
| 5) Extra Point Conversion (any other method): | 1 point |

Section II Game Length: Varsity and Junior Varsity contests shall consist of four quarters and the quarters shall consist of the following minutes:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Quarter Length</u>
JV:	Nine (9)
Varsity:	Ten (10)

Half-time for both levels shall consist of ten (10) minutes with the last three (3) minutes for stretching and warming-up as required per IHSA rules. The varsity teams shall be required to warm-up before their game away from the playing field. Once the JV game has ended the varsity shall have a minimum of five (5) minutes on the field before the start of the game.

Section III Game Start Times: Games shall be played weekly. The game times for each level and type shall be as follows, provided that the home team may deviate from these suggested times if reasonable prior notice is provided to the League and the other team:

<u>Game</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Evening</u>
JV A	10:00	4:30
JV 5 th Quarter / B Game	11:30	6:00
Varsity A	1:00	7:00
Varsity 5 th Quarter / B Game	2:30	8:30

Section IV Stripers: The following are the weight restrictions imposed by the SPFL:

- A. Striper Definition: Any Varsity player with a weight over 135 pounds and any JV player with a weight over 105 pounds, as determined by his most recent weigh-in in accordance with League weigh-in rules, shall be considered a “Striper.” Scale reading taken out to fractions or decimals shall be rounded down to the nearest whole pound for official weigh-in purposes.
- B. Striper Field Limit: Of the eleven (11) players on the field for a given team at any time, no more than five (5) may be Stripers (violation resulting in a fifteen (15) yard penalty,

provided, however if it can be rectified and is rectified prior to the beginning of any play, no penalty shall be assessed).

- C. **Striper Identification:** All Stripers shall be marked with a contrasting stripe on the helmet. Stripe shall be a minimum of one (1) inch and cover the circumference of the helmet (from ear-hole to ear-hole in a complete circle). Failure to comply will result in the player being removed from the game and the violating team being charged a timeout. The player can only return once the stripe is in compliance with League rules.
- D. **Striper Advancement:** A Striper shall not advance the football under any circumstances (i.e. kick/punt return, fumble recovery, pass interception, pass reception, running, etc.). The Striper must down the ball immediately at the spot of possession (violation resulting in a fifteen (15) yard penalty, assessed from the spot of the infraction).
- E. **Striper Positions:** Any player classified as a striper will be restricted to the following positions (violation resulting in a fifteen (15) yard penalty, assessed from the spot of the infraction):

- 1) Offense: C, Guard or Tackle (non-ball carrying positions and never the end man on the line of scrimmage).
- 2) Defense: No restriction on position, but a Striper must line-up in set position (not in motion forward, backward or laterally) and within five (5) yards of the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped.
- 3) Kickoff: No restriction on position, and the kicker may be one of the five (5) Stripers on the field.
- 4) KO return: No position restriction, but must line-up no more than ten (10) yards from the placement of the football by the referee.
- 5) Punt Return: Same as defense.
- 6) Punt/Placekick: Same as offense, provided however that a Striper can be the punter or placekicker, provided, however, if a Striper is the punter or placekicker, the ball must be kicked (no fake kicks or punts are allowed). If a team lines up with a striper kicker or punter, and the ball is advanced by any means other than a kick or a punt, the play is dead and the ball placed at the spot of such initial advancement, with a loss of down.

Section V JV 'B' Kick-off For JV "B" games only, there will be no kick-offs. The ball will be spotted at the 30 yard line.

Section VI Slaughter Rule: A "Slaughter Rule" shall be enforced at the Junior Varsity and Varsity level at the start of the second half or at any time during the second half if the point differential between the two teams becomes twenty four (24) points or greater. A running clock shall begin when the ball is kicked on the ensuing kickoff after the teams have reached this differential, and will only stop for charged time-outs, injuries or scores. Once the point differential drops below 24 the clock will revert back to normal (stopping when required). The running clock will not be implemented in the first half of a game regardless of point differential.

Section VII Overtime: There shall be overtime at the Varsity level and the League shall follow the IHSA format. There shall be no limit on the number of overtimes. The Junior Varsity will be limited to three (3) overtimes during the regular season but unlimited during the playoffs or championship.

Section VIII League Rosters: League rosters shall be turned in to the Secretary seven (7) days before the initial weigh-in and must contain the following information and completed on the template provided by the League. A signed copy must be turned in before initial weigh-ins.

- Player's Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Grade Level
 - Weight
 - Jersey Number
 - Member School / Sister School or Religious Education Program
 - School Administrator (or designee) signature
- (NOTE: Without signature roster is invalid)

The Secretary shall verify weight, age and eligibility of the players and provide copies of all rosters to each team by the first game of the season. The roster must be complete (all information included) when turned in, otherwise the players for the violating team shall not be weighed until a signed completed roster is provided.

Section IX Roster Addition Deadline: No players may be added to the rosters after game three (3) unless given special permission by the SPFL Board. Name/ Birth Date/ Weight/ and Jersey Number of added players must be sent to the League secretary and players must complete the mandated twelve practices before being eligible to compete in League games.

Section X Equipment: All players must wear the following equipment to be eligible for participation:

- 1) Helmet with faceguard - NOCSE approved
 - 2) Shoulder pads of standard football issue
 - 3) Padded football pants or standard football issue
 - 4) Protective mouthpiece
 - 5) Colored jersey with contrasting numbers
 - 6) Shoes of any football issue (no metal exposed)
- (NOTE: Jewelry is not permitted.)

Failure in meeting the minimum equipment requirement shall result in the player being ineligible until the deficiency is rectified.

Section XI Uniforms: Teams shall have standard uniforms in colors and design. SPFL schools are encouraged to follow IHSA uniform guidelines when purchasing new and/or supplementing existing uniforms. Schools purchasing new uniforms should avoid color/design combination conflicts with existing schools uniforms. SPFL Board recommends schools to submit notification of new uniforms prior to purchase to avoid League conflicts.

Section XI Uniform Numbers: The number system shall be the same as IHSA. Linemen should be 50-79 and any other position may be 1-49, or 80-99. Note: If there is an issue regarding jersey numbers, due to roster size/shortage of uniforms, coaches must notify the referee and the opposing team of any deviation from the foregoing before the start of the game, especially if a ball carrying position is involved to avoid a possible disqualification.

Section XII Coaches Shirts: All member school's coaching staffs must wear similar shirts while on the sidelines during a game so as to be identifiable to the referees (hats are optional).

Section XIII Footballs: The official League ball for the SPFL, and the only ball allowed in game play is the leather Wilson TDJ for JV games, and the leather Wilson TDY for Varsity games.

Section XIV Protests: Protests shall be limited to the following:

- 1) Ineligible player (due to):
 - a) Age
 - b) Eligibility
 - c) Weight (non-striper vs. striper)
- 2) League rules interpretation
- 3) Field conditions
- 4) Correctable error(s) (includes but not limited to clock, score, etc.)

The protesting team must notify the opposition and referees either before or during the game. The protest must be filed with the League Office within twenty four (24) hours. The Board shall meet within forty eight (48) hours to review the protest, consult with the parties involved and issue a ruling. Should one of the Board members be a party to the protest, a representative of a member school shall be chosen by the other two (2) Board members to serve in their place until a ruling has been given.

Article III

Gatherings and Practices

Section I Gathering Limitations: Member schools shall be limited to four Gatherings per week starting the first full week of school (Monday through Friday, including half days). "Gatherings" shall be defined as any practice, scrimmage, game, or film session. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, there shall be no restrictions on Gatherings before the start of school.

Section II Practice Requirements: The first day of practice will be voted on at the May meeting. All participants are required to participate in a total of twelve (12) practices before the first game in order to be eligible to play. Players may count up to a maximum of six (6) two-a-day practices towards the twelve (12) pre-season required practices. The first three (3) days of practice for all participants must be helmet only. Any team in violation of the above shall result in the game/games that the player(s) participated in being forfeited. Please note the SPFL season shall not exceed a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

Section III Pre-Season: League members may conduct non-mandatory supervised summer practices not to exceed a total of twenty-five (25). The practices cannot begin until school is out and must end by the fourth Saturday of the IHSA calendar. Helmet, shoulder pads and football shoes *only* are allowed and may be worn by the players at these practices. Please note any school in violation of these summer practice provisions shall be placed on probation for one year, rendering it ineligible to participate for any conference, League or playoff championships. A second violation may result in the offending school being expelled from the League.

Article IV

Eligibility

The League may, by a majority vote of members, allow a member school to roster any of (i) students enrolled in religious education ("RE") at a particular parish, (ii) students enrolled in another Catholic non-member school (a "Sister School"), or (iii) students enrolled in another member school, which cannot field a complete team (a "Hardship School"). All requests for RE, Sister School, or Hardship School player approval must be provided in writing to the Board by no later than January 30 each year for inclusion on the February meeting agenda. Any approvals granted must be re-submitted each year by the requesting school and re-approved each year by the League.

Any League member may petition the League to add an RE, Sister School or Hardship School player pool, however, such requests should only be requested and/or approved in cases where the viability of a program is at issue (or in the case of a Hardship School, necessary to keep players in

the SPFL). Any such request shall be delivered to the Board by the January 30 deadline, along with (i) a five (5) year forecast of player participation, (ii) school enrollment data, (iii) a written description of why such an addition is required, (iv) signed forms by pastors and school athletic directors of both the home school and the target RE program, Sister School, or Hardship School acknowledging the request, (v) specification as to whether the request is for JV or Varsity levels, or both, and (vi) any other reasonable information requested by the Board. All of the above requirements must be resubmitted on an annual basis. Once approved, any specific player (not family) who actually plays for an SPFL team, and is from an approved non-host school player pool, shall be “grandfathered” and shall be eligible to continue playing for that team through eighth grade, regardless of any eligibility changes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Hardship School player or any player who leaves for a season will not have “grandfathered” status.

Each year, after the February meeting, the Secretary shall deliver to the League a summary of all RE and Sister School approvals granted at the February meeting in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Article V

5th Quarters / B Games

Section I 5th Quarter/B Game Obligations: League members are obligated to schedule a 5th Quarter if they have 26-32 eligible players at the Varsity or JV level, and a B Game if they have 33 or more eligible players. 5th Quarters and B Games may be played by teams with fewer players if mutually agreed upon by the competing members. Once agreed upon or required as provided above, 5th Quarters and B Games will be part of the official League schedule provided by the Board, and League members are required to play them. Any member with a scheduled B Game or 5th Quarter who is not able to play the 5th Quarter or B game scheduled must notify the Commissioner in writing (via e-mail) copying the Head of Officials and opposing school no later than 72 hours before the game. Please note that extenuating circumstances must exist for the Commissioner to grant such a request.

Section II 5th Quarter Rules: 5th Quarters shall be played with a running clock for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes with each team having fifteen (15) minutes on offense and defense. Time between plays (ball put into play by the referee) should not exceed thirty (30) seconds. The “delay of game” penalty shall be enforced by the referee if continually abused. Only one (1) coach may be in the huddle with any team at any time. The other coaches and substitutes may be either on the sidelines or more than ten (10) yards behind their offensive huddle. Players not currently participating shall remain on the sideline during their team’s defensive series.

Section III B Games Rules: B games shall be played on the same day and when possible at the same field as the A games. Unlike a 5th Quarter, B Games will follow the same rules as the A games. When B games are scheduled, every effort shall be made by the teams and officials to play a complete B game, including appropriate clock stoppages; provided, however, that the Varsity A game shall not be delayed by more than fifteen (15) minutes (this is a reference to kickoff time, not requisite warmup time). In B Games, only one coach is allowed on the field for each team at any time (no other coaches or players are allowed on the field). The defensive coach shall use best efforts to stay as far back as possible at the start of any play. For B games at the JV level only, there shall be no kickoffs and instead the ball shall be placed at the thirty (30) yard line of the “receiving” team.

Article VI

Sportsmanship

Section I Philosophy: All member schools agree to adhere to the highest standard of ethics and shall refute any "win at all cost" philosophy in order to maintain and uphold the interscholastic program as educationally and morally sound.

Section II Conduct: Member school personnel (includes coaches, players, managers, ball boys, cheerleaders, etc.) and fans shall conduct themselves at each contest in a manner that does not compromise the integrity and spirit of the SPFL.

Section III Videotaping and Filming: Videotaping and/or filming of games will be governed by the applicable IHSA rule.

Section IV Coach Ejections: Any coach and/or player ejected from a game (including the 5th Quarters or B games) for unsportsmanlike conduct will receive a one (1) game suspension if a first offense, and a two (2) game suspension with a hearing if a second offense. Coach/player is not permitted to attend the next contest at the level of his/her ejection, this includes both the A and B games. A coach ejected from a Varsity game may not be on the field or in the stadium area for the next Varsity game at any level, but is free to attend any JV games. Any type of physical contact with a referee shall result in an immediate suspension of indefinite length until a hearing can take place. If a hearing is required under this Section, the Commissioner shall appoint three non-involved member schools who shall review the incident(s) and recommend if additional disciplinary action is needed. The hearing shall take place within seventy two (72) hours of notification by the Head of Officials with a recommendation(s) to follow within ten (10) days of the hearing. All non-involved schools shall vote on the recommendation(s) provided.

Article VII

Fields and Weather

Section I Field Requirements: Home teams shall provide the following for each game:

- 1) A lined field every five (5) yards including ten (10) yard field markers, goal, side and end lines.
- 2) Cones or flags shall mark goal and end lines, and hash marks.
- 3) Linesmen chains, down box and competent persons to work them. (Note: Texting and/or phone usage by sideline personnel while manning the chains and down marker is prohibited. Noncompliance will result in removal from the sideline.)
- 4) Goalpost in each end zone including padding for the pole(s).
- 5) Acceptable game ball per League requirement. The visiting team shall have the option to accept game ball provided by home team or use their own. (Note: If the visiting team decides to use their own ball the home team should provide a ball boy to run the footballs on and off the field for the referees.)

Subject to Section II below, failure to comply with this Section may be cause for forfeiture of the contest by the home team. Please note that per the Head Official every attempt will be made to play the games with the consensus of all parties (officials and both coaches), but the officials will not compromise the safety of the children if they feel the field conditions are not suitable to play football. Because the nature of a contest can be unduly influenced by the lack of field markings, special care must be taken to have them in place on the day of the contest. If the markings are not available the visiting team has the right to refuse to play the contest, but must notify the referees and home team immediately. The home team must pay for the referees and attempt to reschedule the game by Thursday of that week or forfeit the contest.

Section II Unplayable Fields: If due to inclement weather, act of God, or any other occurrence outside the control of the home team, the fields are not playable, the home team must notify the visiting coach and referees no later than one half hour prior to first game on the day of the contest. It also is the responsibility of the home team to notify the Head Official of the cancellation and to use its best efforts to re-schedule the game(s) no later than Thursday of that week.

Section II Lightning: In the case of lightning occurring during a game, the contest shall be halted for a period not to exceed sixty (60) minutes. If a threat of lightning still exists the schools involved in the contest shall use best efforts to re-schedule the game for during the week but no later than Thursday. If rescheduled, the contest shall resume at the point it was halted. The home team shall contact the Head of Officials to arrange for referees to be at the contest.

EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF SUPPLEMENTAL PLAYER POOL APPROVALS

2020

Member School	RE Player Pool	Sister School
Visitation		
JV	Vis RE	None
Varsity	Vis RE	None
Immaculate Conception		
JV	None	St. Philip/ Holy Family / Sacred Heart / St. Pius
Varsity	None	St. Philip/ Holy Family / Sacred Heart / St. Pius
St. Francis Xavier		
JV	SFX RE	St. Mary Riverside// St. Cletus
Varsity	SFX RE	St. Mary Riverside// St. Cletus
St. John of the Cross		
JV	None	None
Varsity	None	None
St. Michael		
JV	SMS RE	St. Irene / St. Joan of Arc
Varsity	SMS RE	St. Irene / St. Joan of Arc
St. Joseph		
JV	St. Joseph RE	St. Mary Gostyn
Varsity	St. Joseph RE	St. Mary Gostyn
United Football (OLP & SIJ)		
JV	OLP RE/SIJ RE	Notre Dame, Mt. Carmel, Holy Trinity
Varsity	OLP RE/ SIJ RE	Notre Dame, Mt. Carmel, Holy Trinity

EXHIBIT B

EXAMPLES FOR APPLICATION OF TIE-BREAK RULES

Example #1: Four teams are tied at 4-3 and none of the tied teams defeated all of the other three during the season.

Final Standings

- Team A 6-1
- Team B 4-3
- Team C 4-3
- Team D 4-3
- Team E 4-3
- Team F 3-4
- Team G 2-5
- Team H 1-6

By virtue of winning percentage, Team A receives the first seed. For the next four tied teams (B-E) the records of their opponents during the season were as follow and there are highlighted in yellow:

	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E
	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4
	2-5	2-5	2-5	2-5
	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6
Playoff Points:	17	12	11	10

After applying the playoff point tie-breaker, Team B has the highest point total and is awarded the second seed.

All remaining teams go back to head-to-head.

If one team defeated the other remaining teams then they would be the #3 seed. In the example above, if Team E beat both teams C & D, then Team E would be the #3 seed. Team C and Team D would be seeded depending on their head to head result. If the two teams did not play each other, then Team C would be the #4 seed as they received more play-off points and Team D would be the #5 seed.

Example #2: Team records the same as in Example #1, but play-off points are different. By virtue of winning percentage, Team A received the first seed. For the next four tied teams (B-E), the records of their opponents during the season were as follows and their wins are highlighted in yellow:

	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E
	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4
	2-5	2-5	2-5	2-5
	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6
Playoff Points:	17	11	11	10

After applying the playoff point tie-breaker, Team B wins and is awarded the second seed.

All remaining teams go back to head-to-head.

If one team defeated the other remaining teams then they would be the #3 seed.

If none of Teams C, D or E defeated all of the other teams in this three way tie since teams C and D are tied in play-off points, those two teams would go back through the process to determine the third and fourth seeds. Team E would get the fifth seed.

If teams C and D played each other, than the head to head winner would be the #3 seed.

If Team C and Team D did not play each other than the point differential for games of common opponents would be calculated. The team with the higher point total would be the #3 seed. If the calculated point differential between the two teams is the same, then a coin toss will determine which team is seeded #3 and #4.

Example #4: Team records the same as in Example #1, but play-off points are different. By virtue of winning percentage, Team A receives the first seed. For the next four tied teams (B-E), the records of their opponents during the season were as follows and their wins are highlighted in yellow:

	<u>Team B</u>	<u>Team C</u>	<u>Team D</u>	<u>Team E</u>
	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	4-3	4-3	4-3	4-3
	3-4	3-4	3-4	3-4
	2-5	2-5	2-5	2-5
	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6
Playoff Points:	17	11	11	11

After applying the playoff point tie-breaker, Team B wins and is awarded the second seed.

All remaining teams go back to head-to-head.

If one team defeated the other remaining teams then they would be the #3 seed.

If none of Teams C, D, or E defeated all of the other teams in this three way tie, point differential among common opponents (excluding the head to head point differentials among the three teams) would be calculated. Assuming Team D had the highest point differential then Team D would be seeded #3. Team C and E would revert to head to head and winner would be seeded #4. If Team C and E did not play each other, then the team with the larger point differential would be seeded #4. If the calculated point differential was the same, then a coin flip would determine seeding.