
THE ELITE ASSOCIATION
BYLAWS

2024



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ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

1.1 General Definitions

1.1.1 Clarifying Terminology: For the purposes of these bylaws, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- (a) "Bench" shall refer to the subset of a Team's Roster whose statistics are not counted for scoring purposes in a given week.
- (b) "Bylaws" shall mean this document and any amendments hereto, which govern the operation of the League.
- (c) "Collusion" shall refer to any agreement between two or more Team Owners to act in a way that unfairly benefits one or more Teams at the expense of other Teams or the League's competitive balance.
- (d) "Commissioner" shall mean the individual appointed to oversee and manage the League's operations and enforce these bylaws.
- (e) "Draft" shall mean the annual player selection process by which Team Owners build their rosters.
- (f) "FAB" or "Free Agent Budget" shall refer to the virtual currency used for bidding on players through the Waiver Wire process.
- (g) "Free Agent" shall mean any NFL player not currently on a Team's roster.
- (h) "IR" or "Injured Reserve" shall refer to a roster spot reserved for players with an injury status, as defined by NFL team designations.
- (i) "Owner" or "Team Owner" shall refer to an individual who manages a team within the League.
- (j) "Playoffs" shall refer to the elimination tournament at the end of the Regular Season to determine the League champion.
- (k) "TEA" or "League" shall refer to The Elite Association fantasy football league.
- (l) "Team" shall mean a collection of NFL players drafted and managed by an Owner to compete in the League.
- (m) "Trade" shall refer to the exchange of players and/or future draft picks between Teams.
- (n) "Regular Season" shall mean the portion of the Season prior to the League playoffs.

- (o) "Roster" shall mean the list of players currently under the control of a Team.
- (p) "Season" shall refer to the period from the first scheduled NFL game to the last game of the TEA championship, inclusive of playoffs.
- (q) "Starting Lineup" shall refer to the subset of a Team's Roster whose statistics are counted for scoring purposes in a given week.
- (r) "Veto" shall mean the rejection of a trade by League vote or Commissioner decision.
- (s) "Waiting List" shall refer to the ordered list of individuals interested in joining the League should a vacancy occur.
- (t) "Waiver Wire" shall refer to the system by which Team Owners can add unowned players to their rosters.
- (u) "Yahoo Platform" shall refer to the Yahoo Fantasy Football website and associated apps used to manage the League.

ARTICLE II LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

2.1 League Overview

- 2.1.1 **League Description:** TEA is a competitive fantasy football league consisting of twelve (12) teams, each managed by an individual member. The league operates on a season-to-season basis, with each season culminating in a playoff tournament and a championship game to determine the league champion.

2.2 Membership and Eligibility

- 2.2.1 Membership in the TEA is open to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- (a) Must be at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Must have a demonstrated knowledge of and passion for football.
- (c) Must be willing to commit to active participation throughout the season.
- (d) Must uphold the league's standards of conduct and fair play.

- 2.2.2 Prospective members may apply for league membership by submitting a written application to the Commissioner. The application should include:

- (a) Personal information (name, age, contact details).

- (b) A brief statement of interest and qualifications.
- (c) A 500-word short essay explaining why the applicant is suitable for TEA.
- (d) Agreement to abide by the league's bylaws and rules.

2.2.3 The Commissioner, in consultation with any existing league members it deems necessary, will review applications and make final decisions on membership. The Commissioner reserves the right to deny membership to any applicant without providing specific reasons.

2.2.4 League membership is non-transferable and non-assignable. In the event that a member wishes to resign from the league, they must provide written notice to the Commissioner at least 14 days prior to the start of the next season.

2.3 **League Entry Requirements**

2.3.1 Upon acceptance into TEA, each member is required to pay a one-time entry fee of \$350.00 Canadian Dollars. This fee is non-refundable and must be paid in full before the start of the season. Exceptions may apply to pay at the end of the season.

2.3.2 Members are responsible for ensuring that their entry fees are paid on time. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of membership and/or other penalties as determined by the Commissioner.

2.4 **Member Resignation and Removal**

2.4.1 Any member may resign from the League by providing written notice to the Commissioner at least 14 days prior to the draft for the next season.

2.4.2 A member may be removed from the League for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Failure to be present at the start of the annual League draft.
- (b) Conduct detrimental to the League, as determined by the Commissioner.
- (c) Failure to pay required League fees by the deadline (see Section 2.5).

2.4.3 The Commissioner shall provide notice to a member who is being considered for removal for reasons b or c above. The member shall have an opportunity to present reasons or mitigating factors to the Commissioner prior to a removal decision. The Commissioner shall render a decision within seven (7) days of receiving the member's response.

2.4.4 Any member removed during the season forfeits all rights to any prizes or payouts they may have

otherwise been entitled to.

2.5 League Fees and Payments

2.5.1 The annual League membership fee is \$350 Canadian Dollars per member.

2.5.2 League fees must be paid in full by the start of the season prior to the annual draft.

2.5.3 With approval of the Commissioner, a member may defer payment of League fees until the end of the season. However, any member exercising this option shall not be eligible to receive prizes or payouts until the League fee is paid in full. The deadline for end-of-season fee payment is seven (7) days after the TEA championship game.

ARTICLE III STANDARDS OF ELITE CONDUCT AND CONSTITUTION

3.1 Standard of Excellence and The Elite Conduct Constitution

3.1.1 As a member of TEA, an elite standard of excellence is expected both on and off the fantasy football field. On the field, members demonstrate elite-level dedication, sportsmanship, and strategic gameplay. TEA members are expected to set lineups diligently each week, make informed roster decisions, and compete at full capacity regardless of record. Gamesmanship that seeks to undermine the spirit of friendly competition will not be tolerated. Off the field, TEA members uphold elite standards of integrity, respect, and professionalism in all league interactions. This includes conduct during the draft, trade negotiations, group dialogue, as well as general adherence to the league constitution. Members shall refrain from collusion, harassment, abuse, and any other behaviour that might bring disrepute upon themselves or TEA as a whole. The TEA Shield is one that must be constantly earned and protected through actions, not words alone. As a member of TEA, each person is held accountable for maintaining elite status.

3.1.2 The members of TEA, in order to form an elite fantasy football league, establish justice on the virtual gridiron, ensure domestic tranquillity within the league chat, provide for the common offence, promote the general welfare of informed trash talk, and secure the blessings of bragging rights to league members and posterity, do ordain and establish the following principles:

3.2 Fundamental Principles

3.2.1 TEA Members shall endorse the following principles:

- (a) **The Tako Mentality:** No member shall ever consider themselves truly defeated. Regardless of record or roster, each member must always strive to compete and improve, embodying the relentless spirit of the underdog.
- (b) **The Next Man Up Principle:** Injuries are an inevitable part of football, but they shall not be used as an excuse for poor performance. Each member is expected to adapt and find the next player to step up and contribute.
- (c) **TCWFAWTFIU (The Cowboys Will Find A Way To Fuck It Up):** No member shall use their fandom of the Dallas Cowboys as an excuse for poor fantasy performance. As history shows, the Cowboys will undoubtedly disappoint their loyal fans in new and increasingly embarrassing ways each season.
- (d) **The Tinkerer's Prerogative:** Each member reserves the right to tinker, tweak, and obsess over their fantasy lineups. No matter how inadvisable, last-minute roster moves are a sacred privilege that shall not be infringed upon unless they violate other Constitution articles.
- (e) **Equality of Opportunity:** All members shall have an equal chance to succeed through savvy roster management, shrewd negotiation, and a bit of luck from the fantasy gods.

3.3 Rights and Privileges

3.3.1 TEA Members shall enjoy the following rights and privileges:

- (a) **Freedom of Speech:** All members have the right to engage in spirited trash talk, provided it does not cross lines into personal attacks or harassment.
- (b) **Right to a Fair Trial:** Any member accused of conduct detrimental to the league shall be given an opportunity to defend themselves before a Tribunal of their peers.
- (c) **Protection Against Unreasonable Trades:** No member shall have their roster pillaged by lopsided trade offers that violate the principles of fair play.
- (d) **Privilege of Participation:** All members have the privilege of fully participating in league events, from the draft to the playoffs, so long as they uphold their responsibilities.

3.4 Responsibilities

- 3.4.1 All members are expected to actively manage their teams throughout the season, including setting lineups, proposing trades, and scouring the waiver wire.

- 3.4.2 League dues shall be paid promptly and in full, barring exceptional circumstances as determined by the Commissioner.
- 3.4.3 Members shall refrain from collusion, cheating, or any other actions that undermine the integrity of the league.
- 3.4.4 The Commissioner's rulings, rendered impartially and in good faith, shall be respected as final.

ARTICLE IV MEMBER INTEGRITY, TRUST, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 Purpose and Principles

- 4.1.1 The Elite Association holds integrity and truthfulness as fundamental values. Trust between members forms the foundation of our league's elite status. These provisions ensure accountability for members who breach this trust through false declarations, deleted commitments, or deceptive conduct.

4.2 The ReTodd Rule - Message Deletion and Promise Denial

- 4.2.1 This rule addresses the deliberate deletion or manipulation of league communications to avoid accountability for promises, commitments, or statements made to league members. Such conduct undermines league integrity and trust between members.

4.2.2 Prohibited Conduct

- (a) No member shall:
- (i) Knowingly make false statements about intended actions or commitments;
 - (ii) Fail to honour public declarations or commitments;
 - (iii) Delete messages containing promises or commitments;
 - (iv) Edit or alter previous messages to change their meaning;
 - (v) Deny making promises that were witnessed by league members;
 - (vi) Claim "no proof exists" after deliberately deleting evidence;
 - (vii) Use alternative accounts or platforms to avoid message history;
 - (viii) Encourage others to delete message evidence;
 - (ix) Attempt to manipulate, gaslight, or deceive members about previous commitments. or
 - (x) Engage in any conduct that undermines league trust and fellowship.

4.3 Definition and Scope

4.3.1 Definition of "Promise or Commitment"

- (a) A "Promise or Commitment" shall include:
 - (i) Any statement of future action or behaviour;
 - (ii) Declarations of intended conduct;
 - (iii) Agreements to perform specific acts;
 - (iv) Acceptance of challenges or dares; and
 - (v) Any statement that a reasonable league member would interpret as binding.

4.4 **Qualifying Statements**

4.4.1 To ensure clarity and consistent interpretation, the league recognizes specific phrases and statements that establish binding commitments. These phrases, whether communicated verbally or in writing, create enforceable obligations when used by members.

4.4.2 A Promise or Commitment is established when a member uses phrases, verbally or written, including, but not limited to:

- (a) "I will...";
- (b) "I promise...";
- (c) "I'll definitely...";
- (d) "You can count on me to...";
- (e) "I guarantee...";
- (f) "Watch me...";
- (g) "Just wait until...";
- (h) "Mark my words...";
- (i) "I will be shotgunning...";
- (j) "I will drink...";
- (k) "If [event] happens, I'll shotgun...";
- (l) "When [team] wins, I'm drinking...";
- (m) "Next week I'm going to...";
- (n) "Put me down for...";
- (o) "Count me in for...";
- (p) "I'm down to...";
- (q) "Challenge accepted...";
- (r) "Consider it done...";
- (s) "Hold my beer while I...";
- (t) "You better believe I'm gonna...";
- (u) "Oh it's happening...";
- (v) "100% I'm doing...";
- (w) "No question I'm...";
- (x) "Obviously I'm going to..."; and
- (y) "You know I'm good for...".

4.5 **Additional Qualifying Circumstances**

4.5.1 The following situations shall establish a Promise or Commitment when a reasonable league member would interpret the statement as binding:

- (a) Statements made in direct response to group challenges;
- (b) Declarations of intended celebration or victory activities;
- (c) Promises or boasts made during competitive trash talk;
- (d) Commitments made in the heat of competition or rivalry;
- (e) Statements made while attempting to influence league votes or decisions;
- (f) Promises contingent upon game outcomes or league events; and
- (g) Any variation of qualifying statements, regardless of exact wording.

4.6 Context and Interpretation

- (a) Promises and Commitments shall be recognized regardless of:
 - (i) The formal or informal nature of the communication;
 - (ii) The platform or medium used;
 - (iii) Whether made in jest or seriousness;
 - (iv) The presence or absence of witnesses; and
 - (v) The time of day or member's state of mind.

4.6.2 No member of the league shall:

- (a) Knowingly make false statements about intended actions or commitments to other members;
- (b) Fail to honour public declarations or commitments made to other members; or
- (c) Engage in conduct that undermines the trust and fellowship of the league through deceptive communications.

4.7 Evidence Standards

4.7.1 The following forms of evidence shall be considered valid proof of a member's promises or commitments:

- (a) Screenshots taken by any league member;
- (b) Multiple member attestations of witnessing the promise;
- (c) Message notifications preserved on members' devices;
- (d) Platform chat history logs;
- (e) Video or audio recordings of verbal promises; or
- (f) Any other verifiable evidence of the commitment.

4.8 Disciplinary Framework

4.8.1 First Offence

- (a) A member who violates these provisions shall face immediate suspension from all league communications and activities. Upon suspension, the member will be removed from all league communication channels, including but not limited to group chats, league forums, and social media groups.

- (b) **Reinstatement Requirements:** To demonstrate genuine remorse and commitment to league integrity, a suspended member must complete specific reinstatement requirements. These requirements are designed to acknowledge wrongdoing, rebuild trust, and ensure future compliance. The member shall:
 - (i) Deliver a formal video or written apology to the league, addressing:
 - (i) Specific acknowledgment of the violation;
 - (ii) Recognition of how their actions affected league trust; and
 - (iii) Clear commitment to future compliance.
- (c) Failure to complete all reinstatement requirements within 7 days of suspension may result in permanent removal from the league.

4.8.2 Second Offence

- (a) Upon a second violation, the member shall be immediately suspended from all league activities.
- (b) **Reinstatement Requirements:** Following a second offence, reinstatement shall be contingent upon the member's complete satisfaction of the following conditions:
 - (i) In order to be reinstated after a second offence, the suspended member must complete two
 - (2) league-selected challenges, which shall:
 - (i) Be more demanding than the original unfulfilled commitment; and
 - (ii) Be filmed in their entirety.
 - (ii) Record and distribute a public video confession that includes:
 - (i) Detailed admission of all deletions or denials;
 - (ii) Acknowledgment of attempting to avoid accountability; and
 - (iii) Apology to affected members.
- (c) Failure to complete any of these requirements within the specified timeframe may result in permanent removal from the league.

4.8.3 Third Offence

- (a) A member's commission of a third offence shall constitute grounds for automatic and irrevocable termination of league membership, whereupon:
 - (i) The member shall be immediately and permanently removed from all league activities;

- (ii) The member shall be placed on the permanent ineligibility list;
 - (iii) All league privileges shall be permanently revoked; and
 - (iv) No application for future membership shall be entertained.
- (b) The Commissioner shall ensure all documentation of the third offence and subsequent removal is preserved in league archives as a matter of record.

4.9 Aggravating Factors

4.9.1 Certain conduct demonstrates a heightened level of deliberate deception that warrants immediate escalation of penalties. The following actions shall be considered aggravating factors:

- (a) Coordinated deletion of messages;
- (b) Attempting to convince others to delete evidence;
- (c) Creating false evidence;
- (d) Using technical means to alter messages; and
- (e) Pattern of deceptive behaviour.

4.10 Commissioner Authority

4.10.1 The Commissioner shall have sole discretion to determine whether a violation of these provisions has occurred. Such determinations shall be made impartially and in good faith.

4.10.2 Upon finding a violation, the Commissioner shall:

- (i) Document the specific nature of the violation;
- (ii) Detail the evidence relied upon;
- (iii) Specify which provision(s) were breached; and
- (iv) Communicate these findings to all league members.

4.10.3 The Commissioner may implement immediate temporary suspensions when circumstances warrant swift action to preserve league integrity.

4.11 Appeals Process

4.11.1 Filing an Appeal

- (a) A member subject to disciplinary action under these provisions may appeal the Commissioner's determination.

4.11.2 Appeal Requirements

- (a) Should a member elect to appeal, they shall:

- (i) File a written notice of appeal to the Commissioner within 48 hours of receiving notification;
- (ii) Include a statement of grounds for appeal; and
- (iii) Provide all supporting evidence with the initial filing.

4.11.3 Evidence and Process

- (a) The appealing member must provide clear and compelling evidence to support their appeal, including but not limited to:
 - (i) Screenshots or message logs;
 - (ii) Witness statements from league members; and
 - (iii) Any other relevant documentation.
- (b) Upon receipt of a valid appeal, the Commissioner shall:
 - (i) Distribute the appeal and evidence to all league members;
 - (ii) Schedule a vote within 48 hours of submission;
 - (iii) Exclude involved members from voting; and
 - (iv) Require at least a 75% majority of non-involved members to overturn.

4.11.4 Appeal Outcomes

- (a) During the appeal period, the following shall apply:
 - (i) Original penalties remain in full force and effect; and
 - (ii) The member remains suspended from league activities.
- (b) If the appeal succeeds, all penalties shall be lifted and the member's record cleared.
- (c) If the appeal fails:
 - (i) Original penalties continue in full force;
 - (ii) No further appeals shall be permitted; and
 - (iii) The member must immediately comply with all outstanding requirements.

4.12 Flagrant Disregard for League Integrity

- 4.12.1 The Elite Association recognizes that deceptive conduct and breaches of trust may manifest in ways not explicitly enumerated within these provisions. Where a member's conduct demonstrates flagrant disregard for league integrity through actions that violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the ReTodd Rule, the Commissioner shall have broad discretionary authority to impose immediate sanctions.
- 4.12.2 Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, patterns of behaviour that demonstrate calculated attempts to circumvent accountability, systematic undermining of league trust, or any actions that

threaten the fundamental principles of member integrity.

4.12.3 In such cases, the Commissioner may, upon written notice to all members, implement penalties commensurate with the severity of the violation, including immediate suspension or permanent removal, notwithstanding the standard progressive disciplinary framework outlined herein.

4.12.4 In exercising this broad discretionary authority, the Commissioner remains bound by an overriding duty of care to the league and its members. This duty requires that all decisions made under this provision shall:

- (a) Be exercised in good faith and with procedural fairness;
- (b) Maintain transparency through open communication of reasoning;
- (c) Apply standards equitably across all members;
- (d) Consider the totality of circumstances;
- (e) Respect principles of natural justice and fairness; and
- (f) Further the league's fundamental objectives of maintaining trust and integrity.

4.13 **Amendments**

4.13.1 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all league members. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner for review before being put to a vote.

ARTICLE V DRAFTING

5.1 **Draft Overview**

5.1.1 The Elite Association (TEA) shall conduct an annual Live Salary Cap Draft. (b) The draft shall take place on the Saturday before the NFL regular season begins, at 6:00 PM PDT.

5.2 **Salary Cap Draft Rules and Procedures**

5.2.1 Each team will have a salary cap of \$300 to bid on players.

5.2.2 The draft will proceed in a nomination and bidding format, with each team taking turns to nominate players for bidding.

5.2.3 The highest bidder for each nominated player will add that player to their roster.

5.2.4 The draft continues until all roster spots are filled for each team.

5.3 **Draft Date, Time, and Location**

- 5.3.1 The draft shall take place on the Saturday before the NFL regular season begins, at 6:00 PM PDT.
- 5.3.2 The draft location shall be determined and announced by the Commissioner at least 30 days prior to the draft date.
- 5.3.3 The location is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, the Commissioner will notify all league members as soon as possible and no later than 72 hours before the draft.
- 5.3.4 The Commissioner shall strive to select a location that is:
 - (a) Accessible to all league members;
 - (b) Equipped with the necessary technology for conducting the draft; and
 - (c) Conducive to a professional and enjoyable draft experience.
- 5.3.5 League members may submit location suggestions to the Commissioner or the Deputy, Joseph Todd, for consideration no later than 15 days before the draft date.

5.4 **Draft Attendance and The Johnstone Rule**

- 5.4.1 **The Johnstone Rule:** In honour of a former league member whose tardiness cost him his spot, this rule emphasizes the critical importance of punctuality at the TEA draft.
- 5.4.2 All league members are required to be present at the designated draft location by the official draft start time.
- 5.4.3 The Commissioner may grant an extension period of up to 30 minutes to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Any delay longer than 30 minutes requires a majority vote of present league members.
- 5.4.4 Any member not present at the draft location by the end of any granted extension period shall be removed from the league, and their team will be eligible for replacement from the waiting list.
- 5.4.5 The Commissioner reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule in cases of provable emergencies or extenuating circumstances, subject to a majority vote of present league members.

5.5 **Consequences of Absence:**

- 5.5.1 Upon removal, the Commissioner shall immediately contact the first individual on the league's waiting list to replace the removed owner.
- 5.5.2 If the first individual on the waiting list is unavailable or declines, the Commissioner shall proceed to the next person on the list until a replacement is secured.
- 5.5.3 The replacement owner, once confirmed, shall assume immediate control of the team and participate in the draft.
- 5.5.4 The removed owner shall be refunded any league fees paid.
- 5.5.5 The Commissioner reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule in cases of provable emergencies or extenuating circumstances, subject to a majority vote of present league members.

5.6 **Draft Attire**

- 5.6.1 The Elite Association draft is a formal event, and all league members are required to dress accordingly.
- 5.6.2 Acceptable attire includes:
 - (a) Suits;
 - (b) Sport coats with dress pants;
 - (c) Dress shirts with ties; and
 - (d) Formal dresses or pantsuits.

5.6.3 Unacceptable attire includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) T-shirts;
- (b) Jeans;
- (c) Shorts;
- (d) Athletic wear; and
- (e) Flip-flops or sneakers.

5.7 **Remote Participation**

- 5.7.1 In-person attendance is strongly encouraged. However, if a league member is unable to attend the draft in person due to extenuating circumstances, they may request permission from the

Commissioner to participate remotely.

- 5.7.2 Remote participants are still expected to adhere to the attire guidelines to the best of their ability, particularly if video conferencing is used.

5.8 Conduct

- 5.8.1 Excessive heckling, disruptive behaviour, or any actions that interfere with the draft process are not discouraged and are in fact, encouraged.

ARTICLE VI ROSTERS AND TRANSACTIONS

6.1 Roster Composition and Limits

- 6.1.1 Each team's active roster shall consist of: 1 Quarterback (QB), 2 Wide Receivers (WR), 2 Running Backs (RB), 1 Tight End (TE), 1 Flex (WR/RB/TE), 1 Team Defense/Special Teams (DEF), 6 Bench spots (BN), and 1 Injured Reserve spot (IR).

6.2 Transactions

- 6.2.1 There is no maximum limit on acquisitions for the entire season or per week.
- 6.2.2 There is no limit on the number of trades a team can make during the season.

6.3 Waivers and Free Agency

- 6.3.1 The waiver system utilizes a Free Agent Budget (FAB) with weekly rolling standings tiebreak. Each team will begin the season with a FAB balance of \$100.
- 6.3.2 Waiver processing time is 1 day.
- 6.3.3 Weekly waivers run from game time until Tuesday.
- 6.3.4 Injured players may be added directly to the IR slot from waivers or free agency.
- 6.3.5 Post-draft, all un-rostered players will follow waiver rules.

ARTICLE VII Trades and Ethical Requirements

7.1 Trade Procedures

- 7.1.1 All trades must be processed through the official Yahoo Fantasy Football platform.
- 7.1.2 Both parties involved in a trade must actively accept the trade for it to be considered valid.
- 7.1.3 Once accepted by both parties, trades will be processed immediately unless the trade violates any of the league's trading rules or roster requirements.
- 7.1.4 Trades involving future draft picks are not permitted.

7.2 Trade Deadline

- 7.2.1 The trade deadline is set for Week 10 of the NFL Regular Season, which is November 9th, 2024 for the 2024 season.

7.3 Ethical Trade Requirements:

- 7.3.1 All trades must be made in good faith, with both parties attempting to improve their teams.
- 7.3.2 Collusive trades are strictly prohibited. Collusion includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Agreements to trade players back at a later date;
 - (b) Trades made to circumvent roster requirements or waiver rules; and
 - (c) Trades made with the intent to unfairly benefit another team.
- 7.3.3 Trade negotiations must be conducted in a respectful manner. Harassment or coercion in trade negotiations is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

7.4 The Warren Rule

- 7.4.1 **Purpose:** The Warren Rule is designed to maintain competitive balance and prevent teams with minimal playoff chances from making potentially league-altering trades late in the season. This rule aims to discourage tanking and ensure that all teams remain engaged in meaningful competition.
- 7.4.2 **Applicability:** This rule applies to all teams from Week 4 of the NFL regular season onwards.
- 7.4.3 **Playoff Odds Calculation:** A team's weekly playoff odds will be calculated as the average of their odds from the following four reputable sources:
 - (a) <https://playoffcomputer.appspot.com/>

- (b) <https://ffodds.50projects.com/>
- (c) <https://theffhub.com/>
- (d) <https://www.fantasypros.com/>

7.4.4 **Calculation Schedule:** These calculations will be performed every Tuesday at 12:00 PM PST by the Commissioner or a designated league official.

7.4.5 **Transparency:** The weekly playoff odds for all teams will be posted in the designated league communication channel (e.g., group chat, league forum) for transparency.

7.4.6 **Trading Restrictions:**

- (a) **Teams with playoff odds of 7% or lower:** These teams are prohibited from initiating or accepting any trades for the remainder of the regular season.
- (b) **Teams with playoff odds above 7%:** These teams may trade freely, subject to all other league rules and regulations.

7.4.7 **Appeals:** A team may appeal their calculated playoff odds to the Commissioner if they believe a significant error has occurred. The Commissioner's decision on appeals is final.

7.4.8 **Commissioner's Discretion:** In the event of unforeseen circumstances or significant discrepancies between the playoff odds sources, the Commissioner reserves the right to adjust the 10% threshold or impose trading restrictions on a case-by-case basis. Any such decisions will be made impartially and in good faith, with a focus on maintaining league integrity and competitive balance.

7.5 **Veto/Trade Review Process**

7.5.1 All trades will be subject to a 24-hour review period after being accepted by both parties.

7.5.2 During this period, any league member may protest a trade by notifying the Commissioner.

7.5.3 Grounds for protest include:

- (a) Suspicion of collusion;
- (b) Extreme imbalance that threatens league integrity; and
- (c) Violation of any league rules.

7.5.4 If a trade is protested:

- (a) The Commissioner will call for a league vote within 12 hours of the protest.
- (b) All league members (except the two teams involved in the trade) must vote within 24 hours.
- (c) A simple majority (6 out of 10 voting members) is required to veto a trade.

7.5.5 The Commissioner reserves the right to veto a trade unilaterally if it clearly violates league rules or integrity.

ARTICLE VIII SCORING AND RANKINGS

8.1 Scoring System

8.1.1 TEA uses a fractional point scoring system with negative points allowed.

8.2 Offensive Scoring

8.2.1 Passing:

- (a) 1 point per 25 passing yards;
- (b) 4 points per passing touchdown;
- (c) -1 point per interception.

8.2.2 Rushing:

- (a) 1 point per 10 rushing yards;
- (b) 6 points per rushing touchdown.

8.2.3 Receiving:

- (a) 0.5 points per reception;
- (b) 1 point per 10 receiving yards;
- (c) 6 points per receiving touchdown.

8.2.4 Miscellaneous:

- (a) 6 points per return touchdown;
- (b) 2 points per 2-point conversion;
- (c) -2 points per fumble lost;
- (d) 6 points per offensive fumble return touchdown.

8.3 Defence/Special Teams Scoring

8.3.1 Defensive scoring:

- (a) 1 point per sack;
- (b) 2 points per interception;
- (c) 2 points per fumble recovery;
- (d) 6 points per touchdown;
- (e) 2 points per safety;
- (f) 2 points per blocked kick;
- (g) 6 points per kickoff or punt return touchdown;
- (h) 2 points per extra point returned.

8.3.2 Points allowed by defence:

- (i) 0 points allowed: 10 points;
- (ii) 1-6 points allowed: 7 points;
- (iii) 7-13 points allowed: 4 points;
- (iv) 14-20 points allowed: 1 point;
- (v) 21-27 points allowed: 0 points;
- (vi) 28-34 points allowed: -1 point;
- (vii) 35+ points allowed: -4 points.

ARTICLE IX SEASON CONFIGURATION

9.1 Regular Season

9.1.1 The regular season begins in Week 1 of the NFL season.

9.1.2 Teams will compete in a head-to-head format each week.

9.2 Playoffs

9.2.1 The playoffs will consist of 6 teams.

9.2.2 Playoff weeks are NFL Weeks 15, 16, and 17 (ending Monday, Dec 30).

9.2.3 Playoff seeding will be dynamically updated (reseeded) each round.

9.2.4 In case of a playoff tie, the tiebreaker will be the best regular season record against the opponent.

9.3 Post-Season Procedures

9.3.1 Eliminated teams will be locked once they are mathematically eliminated from contention.

9.3.2 Injured status will be applied for postponed games.

9.4 Playoff Tiebreakers

9.4.1 Best regular season record vs opponent wins.

ARTICLE X LAST PLACE REMOVAL

10.1 Definition of Last Place

10.1.1 The team finishing with the worst record at the end of the regular season shall be considered to have finished in last place. In the event of a tie for the worst record, the playoff tiebreaker outlined in Section 9.4(a) shall be applied.

10.2 Two-Year Rule

10.2.1 If a team finishes in last place for two consecutive seasons, the owner of that team shall be removed from the league and replaced by a new owner from the waiting list.

10.3 Waiting List

10.3.1 The Commissioner shall maintain a waiting list of potential new owners. This list shall be updated annually or as needed.

10.4 Removal Process

10.4.1 The Commissioner shall notify the removed owner of their dismissal from the league within 7 days of the end of the regular season.

10.4.2 The removed owner shall have 72 hours to appeal the decision to the league. The appeal must be based on extenuating circumstances, such as a documented illness, family emergency, or other significant event that demonstrably hindered their ability to manage their team, and requires a 2/3 majority vote from the remaining owners to be upheld.

10.4.3 If no appeal is made or if the appeal is not upheld, the Commissioner shall contact the first person on the waiting list to offer them the vacant team.

10.4.4 The new owner must accept the offer and pay the league entry fee within 7 days of being contacted.

10.4.5 If the first person on the waiting list declines or fails to respond within the given timeframe, the Commissioner shall move to the next person on the list.

10.4.6 This process shall continue until a new owner is found.

10.4.7 Upon entry into the league, the new owner's "last place" counter shall be reset to zero.

10.4.8 In extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner reserves the right to waive the two-year rule. Such a waiver requires a 3/4 majority vote from all league owners.

10.5 Double Fee Option

10.5.1 In the event that a team finishes in last place for two consecutive seasons, the owner of that team shall be removed from the league and replaced by a new owner from the waiting list, unless the owner elects to pay double the annual league fee to retain their team.

10.5.2 The owner must notify the Commissioner of their intent to exercise the double fee option within seven (7) days of receiving notification of their potential removal.

10.5.3 The double fee payment must be made in full within fourteen (14) days of notifying the Commissioner.

10.5.4 Deferred payments are not permitted under the Double Fee Option.

10.5.5 Failure to meet the notification or payment deadline will result in the owner's removal from the league and the application of the standard waiting list process for replacement.

10.5.6 If the double fee option is exercised and the payment is made in full, the owner's "last place" counter will be reset to zero.

ARTICLE XI AWARDS, PAYOUTS, AND PRIZES

11.1 Payout Structure and Distribution

11.1.1 The annual buy-in for each team in The Elite Association (TEA) is \$350 Canadian Dollars.

11.1.2 Total league pot: With 12 teams, the total amount collected is \$4,200 Canadian Dollars.

11.2 Payout Structure

11.2.1 First Place: \$3,150 Canadian Dollars

11.2.2 Second Place: \$700 Canadian Dollars

11.2.3 Third Place: \$350 Canadian Dollars

11.3 **Distribution of Winnings**

11.3.1 All payouts will be made in Canadian Dollars.

11.3.2 Payouts will be distributed within 7 days of the conclusion of the TEA championship game.

11.4 **Method of Payment**

11.4.1 The Commissioner will coordinate the distribution of winnings.

11.4.2 Payouts will be made via e-transfer, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commissioner and the receiving party.

11.4.3 Recipients must provide accurate banking information to facilitate the transfer.

11.5 **Ties**

11.5.1 In the event of a tie for any paying position, the tied teams will split the combined prize money for the positions in question equally.

11.5.2 Example: If two teams tie for first place, they would split the combined first and second place prizes ($\$3150 + \$700 = \$3,850$), receiving \$1,925 each.

11.6 **Payout Disputes:**

11.6.1 Any disputes regarding payouts must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner within 7 days of the payout distribution.

11.6.2 The Commissioner will review the dispute and make a final decision within 7 days of receiving the dispute.

11.6.3 If the dispute involves the Commissioner's team, an independent committee of three league members will be formed to resolve the dispute.

ARTICLE XII LEAGUE RECORDS AND BYLAWS

12.1 Record Keeping and Transparency

- 12.1.1 The Yahoo Fantasy Football platform shall serve as the official record keeper for The Elite Association (TEA).
- 12.1.2 All league activities, including but not limited to team rosters, transactions, scores, and standings, shall be recorded and maintained on the Yahoo platform.
- 12.1.3 All league records shall be fully accessible to all league members at all times through the Yahoo platform.
- 12.1.4 The league shall operate with full transparency. All decisions, votes, and actions taken by the Commissioner or league as a whole shall be communicated to all members in a timely manner.
- 12.1.5 The league shall strive to maintain historical data from season to season, including past champions, awards, and significant records.

12.2 Amendments to the Bylaws

- 12.2.1 The league bylaws shall be reviewed annually during the offseason, typically within one month after the conclusion of the NFL season.
- 12.2.2 Any league member may propose amendments to the bylaws during the annual review period.
- 12.2.3 Voting Process:
 - (a) Proposed amendments shall be put to a vote of all league members.
 - (b) A 2/3 majority (8 out of 12 members) is required for an amendment to pass.
 - (c) The Commissioner's vote counts the same as other members for regular amendments.
- 12.2.4 Approved amendments shall be incorporated into the bylaws and distributed to all league members at least one month prior to the start of the new season.
- 12.2.5 A log of all amendments, including the date of approval and a brief description of the change, shall be maintained as an appendix to the bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

13.1 Definition of Emergency Situations

13.1.1 Emergency situations are defined as unforeseen events that significantly impact the normal operation of the league or threaten its integrity. These may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Sudden changes in NFL scheduling;
- (b) Catastrophic platform failures;
- (c) Unforeseen rules exploits; and
- (d) Force majeure events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics);
- (e) NFL Game Cancellations or Postponements: This includes any game that is officially canceled or postponed by the NFL after the start of the fantasy football week;
- (f) Platform Malfunctions: This includes any significant disruption or failure of the Yahoo Fantasy Football platform that prevents normal league operations, such as scoring errors, trade processing issues, or website outages; and
- (g) Rule Exploits: This refers to any unintentional loopholes or unintended consequences of the league rules that give one or more teams an unfair advantage.

13.2 Emergency Powers of the Commissioner

13.2.1 In the event of an emergency situation, the Commissioner is empowered to take immediate action to address the issue and ensure the fairness and integrity of the league. Such actions may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Temporarily suspending specific league rules;
- (b) Adjusting scoring or roster requirements;
- (c) Modifying league schedule or deadlines;
- (d) Implementing new rules to address the emergency;
- (e) For NFL game cancellations or postponements:
 - (i) Declaring a scoring freeze for the affected game(s) until the games are played or a league-approved resolution is reached.
 - (ii) Adjusting roster deadlines to accommodate late-played games.
- (f) For platform malfunctions:
 - (i) Utilizing official NFL box scores or a designated backup platform for scoring verification.
 - (ii) Implementing a manual trade approval process.
 - (iii) Extending deadlines for affected weeks.

(g) For rule exploits:

- (i) Implementing rule clarifications or amendments to address the exploit.
- (ii) Adjusting scoring or rosters retroactively to maintain fairness, only if the exploit is discovered and addressed before the end of the regular season.

13.2.2 The Commissioner must notify all league members of any emergency actions taken, including a detailed explanation of the situation and the rationale behind the decision, within 12 hours of implementation.

13.3 **Emergency Bylaw Amendments**

13.3.1 Emergency bylaw changes are those deemed necessary during the course of a season due to unforeseen circumstances that significantly impact league operations or fairness.

13.3.2 The Commissioner has the sole discretion to determine if a situation warrants consideration of an emergency bylaw change.

13.3.3 The Commissioner shall draft the proposed emergency amendment and provide a clear explanation of why it is necessary.

13.3.4 Voting Process:

- (a) The Commissioner shall call for an league-wide vote on the proposed emergency amendment.
- (b) All league members must vote within 24 hours of the proposal being made.
- (c) A simple majority (7 out of 12 members) is required for an emergency amendment to pass.
- (d) In the event of a tie (6-6 vote), the Commissioner shall have the tie-breaking authority.

13.3.5 If approved, the emergency amendment shall take effect immediately. The Commissioner shall update the bylaws and notify all league members of the change.

13.3.6 Emergency amendments are considered permanent unless specifically not incorporated into the bylaws during the next annual review.

13.3.7 Emergency amendments should be rare and used only in extenuating circumstances that threaten the integrity or fairness of the league.

13.4 **League Continuity Measures**

13.4.1 In the event that the Commissioner is unable to perform their duties due to an emergency, a pre-designated Deputy Commissioner, Joseph Todd, will assume all Commissioner powers.

13.4.2 If both the Commissioner and Deputy are unavailable, league operations will be governed by a temporary committee of three longest-tenured league members.

13.5 **Review of Emergency Actions**

13.5.1 All emergency actions taken by the Commissioner or acting leadership must be reviewed at the next annual bylaw review.

13.5.2 The league may vote to codify, modify, or revoke any emergency measures for future seasons.

13.6 **Commissioner's Catch-All Emergency Powers**

13.6.1 **Impartiality and Good Faith:** The Commissioner shall exercise all emergency powers impartially, considering the best interests of the league as a whole and upholding the principles of fairness, sportsmanship, and competitive balance.

13.6.2 **Catch-All Authority:** Notwithstanding any other provision in these bylaws, the Commissioner retains the sole discretion to amend, waive, or implement any rule or regulation during the season if deemed absolutely necessary to address unforeseen circumstances, maintain the integrity of the league, or preserve a fair and competitive environment for all members.

13.6.3 **Transparency and Communication:** Whenever exercising catch-all emergency powers, the Commissioner shall:

- (a) Clearly communicate the specific emergency situation and the rationale behind the decision to all league members within 12 hours of implementation.
- (b) Provide a reasonable opportunity for league members to voice concerns or propose alternative solutions.
- (c) Document all emergency actions and the rationale behind them in writing, preserving a record for future reference.

ARTICLE XIV **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

14.1 **Confidentiality**

14.1.1 The Commissioner shall maintain the confidentiality of any private issues brought to their attention, except where disclosure is necessary for league operations or required by law.

14.2 Social Media and External Communications

14.2.1 Members are encouraged to promote the league on social media but must not share private league information or bring the league into disrepute.

14.3 Limitation on Rule Change Proposals

14.3.1 Will Redl shall be limited to suggesting a maximum of three (3) league rule changes per year.

14.3.2 This limitation is implemented due to Will Redl's documented history of excessive rule tinkering, which has been deemed disruptive to league stability.

14.3.3 All of Will Redl's proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner no later than 30 days prior to the annual rule review meeting.

14.3.4 This limitation does not affect Will Redl's right to vote on rule changes proposed by other league members.

14.4 League Dissolution

14.4.1 In the event that the league must be dissolved, which will almost assuredly never happen, any remaining league funds shall be donated to a charity chosen by majority vote of league members.

14.5 Indemnification

14.5.1 League members agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Commissioner and any league officers from any claims, damages, or liabilities arising from their participation in the league.

14.6 Severability

14.6.1 If any provision of these bylaws is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

14.7 Interpretation

14.7.1 In cases where these bylaws are silent or ambiguous, the Commissioner shall have the authority to

interpret and apply the rules in a manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and competitive balance.

DATED at the City of Regina, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 6th day of December, 2024.

THE ELITE ASSOCIATION

Per:



RYAN TULLOCH, Commissioner
of The Elite Association