

BYLAWS OF REAL DEAL GOATS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND DEFINITION

1.1 NAME

This organization shall be known as the REAL DEAL GOATS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC. (hereafter referred to as RDG or simply Organization).

1.2 ADDRESS

The Organization is located in Cartersville, GA. The mailing address is P.O. Box 383, Cartersville, GA 30121

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

2.1 PURPOSE. The purpose for which this organization is formed is exclusively charitable within the meaning of Section 501 C (3) for the Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of this organization is to Operate exclusively for charitable purposes, Real Deal Goats is driven by the mission to break down barriers—whether financial, social, or geographical—ensuring that every child has the chance to thrive. Together, with the support of families, volunteers, donors, and dedicated coaches, we are creating an environment where dreams are nurtured, teamwork is cherished, and the values of respect, perseverance, and inclusivity shine brightly, as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To promote “safety first” by encouraging strict controls over age, and equipment and identifying skill limits; To acquaint boys and girls with such fundamentals as required to maintain sound physical, mental and moral conditioning.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

3.1 ORGANIZATION

RDG shall be comprised of football teams and cheerleading teams of boys and girls playing in accordance with the rules and bylaws adapted by the Northwest Georgia Youth Football League

3.2 GOVERNING BY-LAWS

All bylaws of the governing League shall be the basis under which all RDG bylaws shall be written. Bylaws can be greater than but not less than the current governing League.

3.3 ROSTER PRIORITY

Roster sizes may vary but must always comply with current NWGYFL rules.

3.4 REGISTRATION

Players who completed the previous year's season or siblings of the player who completed the previous year seasons are considered returning players and we will have preference to register on a first come, first serve, during a beginning "closed in" returning player registration. Siblings of returning players will be placed on the waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis. New players will register on a first come, first served basis during "open" registration. Closed registration is for returning football players, returning cheerleaders and siblings. All current RDG board members, approved RDG head coaches and returning RDG assistant coaches may be pre-registered at closed registration.

3.4.1 The Board of Directors will determine registration times, dates, and fees for the coming year.

3.4.2 The Board of Directors is responsible for notifying return football players and cheerleaders about registration.

3.4.3 The Secretary, Football Director and Cheer Director will be responsible for publicizing the open registration information as approved by the board. The registration information will be shared publicly.

3.4.4 Any returning player that does not register during closed registration window must register during open registration and will be placed on the waiting list if the team has reached its person maximum.

3.4.6 The following documentation is required for returning or new participants

- Verification of Age (new players only)
- Medical/Physical Form

- Player/Participant Contract

3.5 MEMBERS

Members of the RDG shall be all football players and cheerleaders on participating teams, coaches, managers, board members, and parents/guardians.

3.6 VOTING MEMBERS

All members of the RDG above the age of eighteen (18) shall have the right to cast (1) vote per family for elections.

3.7 INSURANCE

It shall be mandatory that the organization have supplemental insurance and board insurance to cover accidents and injuries to players, cheerleaders and other official team members while playing, traveling, or practicing. A copy of this policy shall be on file with the organization and given to each athletic director no later than the August meeting each year.

ARTICLE IV – CORPORATE STRUCTURE

4.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.1.1 BOARD STRUCTURE

The RDG shall be governed by a Board of Directors that consists of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. The Board of Directors is empowered to conduct all business affairs of the RDG, appoint standing committees, and establish such rules and regulations as they deem necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the RDG.

4.1.2 TERMS

The Board of Directors will be comprised of a minimum of four (4) members each elected to a two (2) year term of office and may be re-elected to serve successive terms.

4.1.3 QUORUM

A quorum of two-thirds voting board members is required to conduct business and or set policy on behalf of the RDG.

4.1.4 VOTING

Each board officer is entitled to one vote on motions presented before the board.

4.1.5 AGE

A board member must be a minimum of 21 years of age.

4.1.6 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

4.1.6.1 Manage the property, business, and affairs of RDG.

4.1.6.2 Transact all business in accordance with the policies and guidelines set forth by the bylaws of RDG policies and guidelines.

4.2 OFFICERS

4.2.1 PRESIDENT

The duties of the President shall include, but are not limited to:

4.2.1.1 Preside at all RDG board meetings.

4.2.1.2 Make designated RDG committee appointments subject to approval by the board.

4.2.1.3 Serve on the grievance and budget committees.

4.2.1.4 Present periodic reports to the board and membership of the RDG and present a special report at the Annual Meeting.

4.2.1.5 Represent the RDG and promote its interest.

4.2.1.7 Chair the By-Laws Committee.

4.2.1.9 Appoint candidates to vacant positions, where necessary on the Board of Directors for the remainder of the calendar year with Board approval.

4.2.1.10 Remove any member from the RDG immediately, if necessary.

4.2.1.12 Ensure and be able to provide proof that all coaches and/or volunteers meet the certification requirements.

4.2.2 VICE PRESIDENT

The duties of the Vice President shall include, but are not limited to:

4.2.2.1 The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all duties and have all the powers of the President. The Vice President shall also have such other powers and perform such other duties as shall be assigned by the Board.

4.2.3 SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall include, but are not limited to:

4.2.3.1 Record all minutes of all RDG board meetings.

4.2.3.2 Minutes of board meetings must be prepared and published within two weeks of the meeting and available to all Board Members

4.2.3.3 Give notice of all meetings required by Statutes, By-Laws or Resolutions.

4.2.3.4 Carry on all official correspondence of RDG, as designated by the Board of Directors or the President.

4.2.3.5 Keep on file all minutes, committee reports, and correspondence in an organized manner for ease and review by any other board member.

4.2.3.6 Prepare any such report as required by law.

4.2.3.7 Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.

4.2.4 TREASURER

The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but are not limited to:

4.2.4.1 Serve as custodian, in a fiduciary capacity, of all funds and securities of the Organization.

4.2.4.2 Maintain a record of accounts of the Organization and provide a copy of the report to each Board member at each regular board meeting. Ensure a copy of the bank statement is on file.

4.2.4.3 Present a financial report at the annual meeting and special reports when required.

4.2.4.4 Facilitate the preparation of any fiscal reports as may be required by law.

4.2.4.5 Ensure the deposit of all monies of the Organization in a timely manner, in the name of RDG, in the bank selected and designated by the Board of Directors, subject to withdrawals or Board approved authorized purchases.

4.2.4.6 Maintain accounts and records in an orderly fashion for auditing purposes. Accounts will be externally audited as required.

4.2.4.7 Maintain a system to include case log and or forms so that all incoming funds are verified by a board member before being presented to the treasurer for deposit.

4.2.4.9 Chair the budget committee.

4.2.4.10 Assist President as needed.

4.3 FOOTBALL AND CHEER COACHES

Coaching applicants must strive to develop character, sportsmanship, discipline, athletic ability, a spirit of team unity and comradeship within those in their charge. Coaches should always attempt to develop within team members a feeling of respect and trust for the figures of authority, such as themselves, officials, parents, teachers, and all adult members of the community. The coaching staff must exemplify a high standard of sportsmanlike conduct for the benefit of boys and girls. The example set by coaches should help to ensure that all team members act in an exemplary manner on the practice field as well at games and other RDG functions.

4.3.1 MISCONDUCT

The following actions by a coach could result in warnings, coach revocation, demotion, suspension, or dismissal from the program. Discipline will be determined by the Football / Cheer Director and any appeals will be heard by the grievance committee:

4.3.1.1 Verbally or physically abusing anyone or accepting or tolerating verbal or physical abuse to or from anyone,

4.3.1.2 Throwing equipment

4.3.1.3 Abusive language or gestures (in person or in writing i.e., email, text or chat)

4.3.1.4 Encouraging or accepting any unsportsmanlike conduct from their team members.

4.3.1.5 Under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs anytime while in coaching capacity directly responsible for the care and custody of children under their direction.

4.3.1.6 Possession of illegal drugs and or alcohol at any time during practice, games, or other functions.

4.3.1.8 Any other public or private displays of immaturity that poorly reflects on the mission of the RDG

4.3.2 HEAD COACHES

4.3.2.1 All applicants for head coaching positions must be at least 21 years of age. It is the Board of Directors desire that all applicants for head coaching positions have previous, validated coaching experience in an organized youth program.

4.3.2.5 Be governed by the bylaws, rules and guidelines as set forth by RDG.

4.3.2.6 Length of service shall be until the end of the season.

4.3.2.8 Head coaches are responsible for enforcing the minimum plays per game. Failure to play all eligible players will result in a forfeit. The head coach will be suspended from all RDG activities, including practices and games for a minimum of 14 days. A repeat violation may result in permanent dismissal. The head coach will submit the game play count sheet to the Compliance Director at the conclusion of every game.

4.3.2.10 Every member of the coaching staff will be dressed in the current year's coaching attire at every game. Failure to do so will result in removal from sidelines.

4.3.2.11 Head coaches will be required to attend a coach's meeting once per month.

4.3.2.12 Head coaches are responsible for running organized effective practice

4.3.2.14 Head coaches are responsible for selecting up to five (5) assistant coaches who meet all eligibility requirements. One of the four coaches selected will be designated statistician during games.

4.3.3 ASSISTANT COACHES

Shall be at least eighteen (18) years old and selected by head coaches who submit names to the Football/Cheer Director and who, Upon their recommendation, will submit them to the board of directors for approval.

ARTICLE V – MEETING OF MEMBERS

5.1 MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet at least once a month during the year. Times, dates, and locations will be set by the President. All elected board members are expected to attend, call or video call to all scheduled meetings.

5.1.1 Any board member who is absent from two consecutive scheduled meetings, either excused or unexcused, automatically loses the right to vote at the next scheduled meeting.

5.1.2 Three absences (excused or unexcused) from regularly scheduled meetings during the board year (Jan-Dec) will result in possible dismissal from the board, by a majority vote.

5.1.3 Any head coach who is unable to attend a scheduled meeting will send a board approved assistant coach to take their place. Any team who is not represented for two consecutive meetings will result in the head coach sitting out the first quarter of the next scheduled game. This will also require an incident report submitted to the President.

5.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS

A special meeting shall be called as needed by the President or Vice President in the absence of the of the President, or at the request of 3 Board Officers. There will be a minimum of 24-hour notice for all board members for any special meeting to be held.

5.3 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Establish Quorum, roll call, reading of minutes from previous meeting, report of the treasurer, reported the President, reports of officers, reports of committees, election of new members as necessary, old business, new business, and adjournment.

5.4 QUORUM/VOTING

All voting board members shall be entitled to one vote. A simple majority (one-half plus one) shall be necessary to carry a vote, except as provided herein.

5.5 FINAL DISPOSITION OF MATTERS

Once a final vote has been accepted, a matter may not be raised and re-voted unless prior approval is granted or a 2/3 majority vote. Any subsequent change or addition must be approved by a 4/5 majority vote.

5.6 STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees may be formed with the approval of the board of directors.

5.7 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees may be formed as needed by the President with the Board of Directors approval.

5.8 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the RDG membership shall be at the end of the season, with the exact date set annually by the Board of Directors. Election of Directors for the ensuing year will be held at the last regular season home game and presented for confirmation at the annual meeting.

5.8.1 Notice of the annual meeting will be provided to the membership at large no less than 30 days prior to the meeting date.

5.8.2 Individuals interested in running for elected positions must submit their name to the President at least two weeks prior to the last regular season home game. Notice to submit names to the President for running for election to the board of directors will be provided to

the membership at large no less than 30 days in advance of the deadline two weeks prior to the last regular home game.

5.8.3 Ballots will be designated for each officer position as follows: officers will be listed on the ballot in the order they appear in

SECTION 4.2. Incumbents will be listed at the top of each position, then candidates in alphabetical order. If there is no incumbent then candidates for each position will be listed in alphabetical order, last name then first name.

5.9 ELECTION PROCEEDINGS

5.9.1 Election Committee will be formed to solicit members to serve as board members for next year's board.

5.9.2 Committee members and team parents should consist of at least three people.

5.9.3 General membership should be notified of the election date 30 days prior to election.

5.9.4 Nominations for the board should be accepted up to two weeks before the elections are to take place to allow for the preparation of ballots.

5.9.5 Elections must take place at the last home game of the season.

5.9.6 Voting will be monitored by the election committee unless they themselves are nominated for a board position. If an alternate voting monitor must be used to count the votes, then the Board of Directors must come to an agreement to whom the alternate will be.

5.9.7 Once the election committee has counted the votes, they are to notify the President of the results who must then make the vote public.

5.9.8 Once the incoming board is verified e.g. background checked, the outgoing board will begin to educate the new board on the procedures of the organization and show through example the day-to-day operations of the League.

5.9.9 Incoming board will be presented at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Sound fiscal awareness is of the utmost importance to the success of RDG. Each board member, and specifically the Treasurer, is expected to use sound fiscal judgment in

managing an accounting of all the monies received and expended by the RDG. The following items are the minimum necessary to ensure sound fiscal management.

9.1 CREATING BUDGET

All projects and or committees will provide a projected report of income and expenditures for their projects or committees to be submitted to the budget chairperson, no later than March.

9.2 BUDGETED PURCHASES

All project budgets will be approved by the Board of Directors and require a detailed project report. This report must be submitted to the board, at the project's conclusion, along with a breakdown in expenditure supported by receipts. Each chairperson will be fiscally responsible for money budgeted to their committee. No purchases or expenditures will be made prior to budget approval.

9.3 PURCHASES

The following guidelines shall be followed for any purchase made by any member of their organization seeking reimbursement:

9.3.1 Any unbudgeted purchase over the amount of \$500 shall be preapproved by the full Board of Directors or ratified at the subsequent board meeting

9.3.2 Any proposed purchase over the amount of \$1000 should be accompanied by three written bids presented for approval of the full board of directors.

9.3.3 Any proposed purchase must be presented for approval by the applicable board member who must be in attendance to receive approval of the full Board of Directors.

9.3.4 Any purchase that exceeds a prior board approved budget must be approved by a vote of the full Board of Directors.

9.4 METHODS OF ACCOUNTING

Generally accepted accounting principles shall be used to maintain the fiscal records. The cash basis method of accounting will be used as the method of accounting all income and expenditures of the RDG.

9.5 AUDITS

9.5.1 Internal audits--the treasure will present to the board financial report of the RDG at least semi-annually for approval.

9.5.2 The budget committee will review the accounts and records annually.

9.5.3 External audits--an external audit of accounts and records may be conducted by an accounting firm or CPA trained to perform such audits annually, semi-annually or as needed subject to the board of directors or President.

ARTICLE X – DISPOSITION OF CORPORATE ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of RDG, the residual assets of RDG will be turned over to one or more organizations, which themselves are exempt as organizations described in section 501 (3) and 170 (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding sections of any local government for exclusive public purposes.

ARTICLE XI – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES – PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND GUESTS

11.1 FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPMENT

Promoting each participant's independence and self-esteem is the foundation for development as a person, as well as an athlete. The RDG disciplinary policy has been developed with this understanding, and further recognizes a responsibility to promote and facilitate:

11.1.1 A feeling of one's value and importance.

11.1.2 An understanding of one's right to be respected, to be heard, and the right not to be intentionally injured either physically or emotionally.

11.1.3 The development of personal controls and the ability to direct one's actions.

11.1.4 An ability to communicate verbally one's needs and wants; and

11.1.5 A growing ability to respond appropriately to the needs of others.

11.2 GENERAL MISCONDUCT INCLUDING ALL RDG

Misconduct is considered, but not limited to the following:

11.2.1 "Trash-talking" to opponents at any time.

11.2.2 Cheering or taunting opponents who make errors.

11.2.3 “Showboating” or prancing, on the field of play

11.2.4 Screaming in a condescending manner to teammates, coaches, officials, opposing players and spectators.

11.2.5 Leaving the field of play before meaningfully shaking an opponent's hand.

11.2.6 Demeaning comments to teammates, coaches, officials, opposing players and spectators intended to publicly embarrass them.

11.2.7 Significant changes in attitude or approach to the game because of defeat.

11.2.8 Addressing a coach and or field official in an informal manner (e.g., hey, etc.)

11.2.9 Lack of hustle on and off the field

11.2.10 Use of excessive gear with no actual purpose.

11.2.11 Exhibiting signs of disrespect (e.g., eye rolling, moping, lack of hustle, questioning coaching decisions at inappropriate times)

11.2.12 Harassment and/or bullying of fellow team members, including football players, cheerleading coaches, board members and or parents.

11.2.13 Response to an officiating call with angry displays of temper that include rude or obscene gestures or foul language.

11.2.14 Extreme displays of emotional immaturity (e. g., tossing one’s helmet in response to an error)

11.2.15 Joining in an existing altercation

11.3 PENALTY MATRIX

11.3.1 PENALTY MATRIX - PLAYER

11.3.1.1 First Infraction—Counseling

11.3.1.2 Second Infraction—assignment of additional conditioning training that must be completed at the end of the official practice session or, if the infraction occurs during a game, at the end of the following practice season.

11.3.1.3 Third Infraction--Dismissal from practice, removal from game, or one game suspension at the head coach’s discretion.

11.3.2 *FIGHTING PENALTY MATRIX - PLAYER

11.3.2.1 During practice - Head coach’s discretion including one game suspension.

11.3.2.2 During a game or while attending a function at any Event - Three game suspension

11.3.2.3 Entering the field to join an altercation or second fighting offense – one-year suspension

11.3.3 PENALTY MATRIX – SPECTATOR/PARENT/GUEST AT ANY RDG PRACTICE, GAME or EVENT

11.3.3.1 First Infraction—Counseling

11.3.3.2 Second Infraction—Removal from practice, game, or event

11.3.3.3 Third Infraction—Suspension for the remainder of season or 3 games (whichever is greater)

11.3.4 *FIGHTING PENALTY MATRIX – SPECTATOR/PARENT/GUEST AT ANY PRACTICE GAME OR EVENT

11.3.4.1 Removal from program – subject to review by Grievance Committee upon appeal

*Any Physical contact that is not “part of the game” such as, but not limited to, wrestling, pushing, shoving, charging, chest bumping, face to face shouting, spitting, or failed attempt at any of these can be considered “Fighting”. Punching is not required. Leaving your seat to “deescalate” can also be considered in the “fighting” category.

11.4 ABSENCES

Any player who is absent from practice for 10 hours accumulative in the first 2 weeks of practice will be removed from the team and added to the bottom of the waiting list. Any exceptions will be reviewed and decided by the Football Director.

ARTICLE XIII – AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ON PLAYING FIELD

Unauthorized people encountered on the playing field will be asked to return to the viewing stands. Refusal To follow the directions of an authorized member residing on the playing field will result in removal from the football complex including the adjoining parking and recreation area. Anyone found in contempt of this article will be subject to the guidelines of Penalty Matrix 11.3.4. Article VIII: Amendments

Article XIV: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote from the Board of Directors at any meeting with quorum, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Article XV: Adoption

These bylaws were approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of REAL DEAL GOATS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC. on this 15 day of May/2025

Board President Signature: _____

Date: _____

Secretary Signature: _____

Date: _____