



# Constitution of the Yorkshire Blood Bowl League

version 1.3 – 3 November 2009

## 1. Structure

The League is a voluntary organisation which links together and supports Blood Bowl coaches, clubs and groups across Yorkshire.

The members of the League are gaming groups called Divisions. Divisions are independent of one another and their membership of the League is voluntary. All Divisions in the League are equal partners, regardless of their size.

The League is an association of Divisions, not of individual gamers. As such, the rules in this document apply to Divisions, not to individuals.

## 2. Aims

The aims of the League are:

- ◆ to maintain and support a network of Blood Bowl gaming groups, both formal (clubs) and informal (local associations of players);
- ◆ to help build group membership by connecting individual gamers to their local groups;
- ◆ to collect and publish league information from its member groups, maintaining fair comparability between groups and individual teams;
- ◆ to organise and co-ordinate county-wide tournaments from time to time;
- ◆ to make sure that Yorkshire as a unit is clearly represented in the wider Blood Bowl community.

## 3. Membership

The members of the League are independent gaming groups. These groups are referred to as Divisions.

### *Basic criteria for membership*

The basic criteria for membership are:

- ◆ **Location:** The group must be based in or near Yorkshire. This is taken to include the whole Yorkshire and Humber region of the UK, plus nearby areas. The definition of 'nearby areas' is decided by the Commission on a case-by-case basis.
- ◆ **Size:** The group must have at least six active Blood Bowl coaches, ~~but not more than fifteen.~~
- ◆ **Co-ordinator:** The group must have a single nominated co-ordinator who is willing to become the Commissioner.
- ◆ **Rules:** The group must agree to follow the contents of this constitution.

In general, Divisions should meet all these criteria. If the Commission decides that a Division fails to meet one of these criteria (for instance, if it drops below the minimum number of active coaches), the Commission may decide either to waive the relevant criterion temporarily or to suspend the Division. This decision is taken in consultation with the Division's Commissioner or, if there is no Commissioner,



with its active members. Whatever decision is taken, the Commission then works with the Division to help it meet the relevant criterion.

A suspended Division is still a member of the League, but it does not take part in most League activities.

### *Joining*

Any new or existing Blood Bowl gaming group may apply to join the League and become a Division, whether or not it is a formally constituted gaming club.

To apply for membership, a group representative simply contacts the League Commissioner with a request to join. The Commission then decides whether to admit the group. A group should be admitted if it meets the basic criteria for membership given above. If it does not meet these criteria, the Commission may decide either to waive the relevant criterion or to postpone the membership application until the criteria are met. This decision is taken in consultation with the group, and the Commission then works with the group to help it meet the criteria.

When a new group is admitted to the League, it becomes a Division and chooses a name for itself in consultation with the Commission. Its nominated co-ordinator becomes a Commissioner. The League Commissioner records the details of the new Division and creates an area for it on the League website.

### *Leaving*

The decision to leave the League always belongs to an individual Division, although the Commission will seek to discuss the issue with the Division before the final decision is taken.

If a Division wants to leave the League, its Commissioner simply informs the League Commissioner of this. When this happens, the League Commissioner immediately informs members of the Commission.

A Division that has previously left the League may apply to rejoin in the future, but it is treated as a new applicant group and follows the application procedure described above.

### *Becoming defunct*

The Commission may decide that a Division has become defunct if:

- it has played no matches in the current season;
- the League Commissioner has made all reasonably possible attempts to contact its Commissioner or members and received no response after a reasonably long time.

When the Commission decides that a Division has become defunct, that Division is immediately removed from the League exactly as if it had chosen to leave.

## **4. Administration and decision-making**

The League is not an independent organisation, but an association of Divisions. As such, most issues of administration are for Divisions to decide. This includes questions of finance, membership, publicity, legal status and child protection. The mechanisms by which decisions are made is also a matter for Divisions. The League has no influence over the way individual Divisions are run, except where provided in these rules.

### *Commissioners*

Commissioners are ordinary coaches who each oversee the day-to-day running of one or more Divisions. Each Division may appoint its Commissioner by whatever method it chooses. The primary responsibility of a Commissioner is to the Division he oversees. A Commissioner may be responsible for more than one Division.



If a Commissioner wishes to resign from his position, he simply informs the Commission that he is doing so. It is the responsibility of the Division to nominate a willing replacement. The Commission has no control over this.

If there is a period during which a Division has no Commissioner, the Commission (in consultation with coaches in the Division) may decide to suspend the Division because it does not meet the basic criteria for membership. Alternatively, the Commission may decide to temporarily assign the Commissioner's responsibilities to another Commissioner or to other volunteers. In any case, the Commission works closely with coaches in the Division to find a new replacement for the Commissioner as soon as possible.

### *The Commission*

The Commission is the League's decision-making group. Its members are all the Commissioners plus the League Commissioner. It has no other members.

The Commission holds its discussions irregularly and informally in person, by email, by phone, using a forum or website, or using any other suitable method. The timing, format and structure of these meetings is determined by the League Commissioner.

### *Commission decisions*

As part of its discussions, the Commission can make decisions on rules which apply to all the League's Divisions. Wherever possible, these decisions are made by consensus of all Commissioners. The League Commissioner determines when a consensus has been reached. The League Commissioner can participate in discussions, but his agreement is not necessary for a consensus.

If, after reasonable discussion, the League Commissioner determines that consensus is very unlikely to be reached, the decision is made by majority vote instead. All Commissioners have an equal vote, even those who are responsible for more than one Division. Abstentions do not count either way. The League Commissioner may not vote except to resolve a tied vote.

If one or more Commissioners are unable to contribute to a particular discussion or decision (for instance, if they are absent from a meeting or do not access a relevant website), they may give instructions to the League Commissioner in advance on their position. If they have not given such instructions, the League Commissioner may decide whether a decision can be taken in their absence. However, if a majority of Commissioners is unable to contribute to a particular discussion, no decision can be taken.

Decisions made by the Commission are binding on all Divisions. They are recorded by the League Commissioner on the League website, where they are publicly available to members of all Divisions.

### *The League Commissioner*

The League Commissioner is a volunteer who oversees the day-to-day administration of the League (but not its Divisions). He is not a full Commissioner and he may not also be a Commissioner. His role is an administrative one with no decision-making power.

The League Commissioner's responsibilities are:

- ◆ to maintain and update League documents and resources, including the League website;
- ◆ to provide information about the League and represent it to individuals and organisations outside the League;
- ◆ to answer queries from coaches about the running of the League;



- ◆ to administer the Commission, coordinate its discussions and maintain good communication between Commissioners;
- ◆ to communicate decisions of the Commission to all Divisions;
- ◆ to perform any other League-related actions as might be required by a decision of the Commission.

The League Commissioner is chosen by a decision of the Commission. If he resigns or the Commission decides to remove him, the Commission must decide who to appoint in his place.

## 5. Seasons, matches and tournaments

### *Seasons*

The playing period of the League is divided into Seasons. Seasons are League-wide and must be respected by every Division. Each Season consists of a number of weeks or months decided and published in advance by the Commission. The duration can vary from Season to Season.

### *Matches*

During a Season, coaches in all Divisions play matches. The number of matches that must take place in each Division during a single Season is decided by the Commission, taking into account the length of the Season and the number of teams in each Division.

As a Season progresses, each Division records its own match results. The League website collates and records these results. Teams are ranked according to their performance in matches using criteria decided by the Commission. To enable cross-Division comparisons, the same criteria are used by all Divisions. They may not be changed mid-Season.

### *Tournaments*

The League holds tournaments from time to time. Each tournament is hosted by one or more Divisions, and the Commissioner(s) of the host Division(s) undertake to organise the tournament and handle all the administrative details.

The date, format, duration, venue, competitor limitations and other details of tournaments are decided by the Commission in consultation with the host Division(s) and announced to all Divisions in advance.

## 6. Blood Bowl rules

The League uses the most current official Blood Bowl Living Rulebook as published on the Specialist Games website or elsewhere. All Divisions must use the same Blood Bowl rules so that match results are comparable across Divisions.

### *Rule changes*

Official clarifications and adjudications from the Blood Bowl Rules Committee, ~~Games Workshop and the Specialist Games website~~ are considered authoritative changes to the Blood Bowl rules and will be adopted by the League.

For changes which the Commission decides are minor, the League will implement those changes immediately. For changes which the Commission decides are substantial, the League will implement those changes in a way decided by the Commission, and following a timetable decided by it. The Commission may also decide on transitional arrangements, such as compensation for teams forced to make changes to their roster, or it may decide to leave such arrangements to individual Divisions.



### *League house rules*

From time to time, the Commission may decide on League house rules. These can add text to the official rulebook, alter or remove it, and in all cases they supersede the official rulebook. The Commission may decide to make League house rules compulsory (in which case all Divisions must adopt them) or optional (in which case Divisions may choose whether or not to adopt them).

### *Disputes and ambiguities*

Disputes and ambiguities in the game rules are resolved locally by Divisions using any mechanism the Division chooses. However, the Commission may decide to publish an official resolution at a League level if it decides that this is necessary to preserve parity between match results across different Divisions. Such official resolutions have the same status as League house rules.

## **7. Changing this constitution**

The Commission can change any part of this constitution by deciding to do so using the procedure outlined in section 4.

## **8. History of changes**

| <i>Version</i> | <i>Date</i>      | <i>Sections changed</i> | <i>Summary of changes</i>   |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1.0            | 30 April 2008    |                         |   |
| 1.1            | 4 July 2008      | 4.                      | Incorporated decision about Commissioners with more than one Division   |
| 1.2            | 24 November 2008 | 3.                      | Incorporated decision about removing defunct Divisions  |
| 1.3            | 3 November 2009  | 3., 6.                  | Incorporated decision about the maximum number of teams in a Division; removed reference to rules sources other than BBFC in line with national BBFC policy |