



TFL-ELITE LEAGUE

Governing Document 2008-2009 Season

RULES

All games will be governed by International Floorball Federation rules unless explicitly stated otherwise.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Any changes to the rules outlined in this document can only be made through the league *rule change policy*, which will be created by a committee that will convene at a minimum two weeks prior to the first game of the regular season. A member of each club sends one representative to this committee and it will include the league commissioner. The procedure the committee creates must be reached unanimously and will stay in effect until the last game of the playoffs is complete.

The procedure for changing league rules for the 2007-2008 season was through unanimous decision by all the club general managers and the league executive.

LEAGUE VISION

The Toronto Floorball League Elite Division is committed to providing regular opportunities for structured competition for local players in a fun and safe environment. We want to encourage the creation of lasting club teams that will enter floorball tournaments and start minor league, junior and women's teams. Our goal is to transfer the elite league to a venue large enough for five on five play by the 2009-2010 season even if it is outside of the downtown core.

CLUB SYSTEM

To align with the goals of the Toronto Floorball League, we are moving from a centralized draft system of teams that are put together for one season and then disbanded towards a fully functioning club system with continuity. We want this move to occur in an orderly manner that will keep parity within the league as much as possible. General Managers are encouraged to explore the opportunities this opens for their club including: registering the club as a non-profit entity owned by the players and not the league, establishing a club framework with off-court staff like coaches, striking a deal to form an affiliate club in the intermediate, youth or women's leagues, hosting regular practices, competing in tournaments or events independent of the TFL, obtaining additional sponsors and so on.

GENERAL MANAGERS

Each TFL-ELITE league club is managed by a General Manager (GM), who can also be a player. The club team appoints their General Manager and notifies the league. Each club must have a General Manager and can have only one General Manager at one time. The General Manager for the upcoming season must be announced by the club on July 1st.

REGISTRATION

Team registration is done according to the criteria set forth by the Toronto Floorball League. General Managers are required to submit payment of fees according to the published fee schedule in order for their team to be eligible to participate in the Toronto Floorball League. Late payment or non-payment of fees will result in suspension of the team from the league.

PLAYER RIGHTS

Player rights refer to the rights a team owns that give them the right to sign a player.

A team owns the player rights for a player one calendar year plus two weeks from the last game that the player plays for their team. After a team's ownership rights expire, a player becomes a free agent and may sign with a team of their choice.

Any trade involving players are for player rights only. Therefore, if a team makes a trade for a player that player may not play for any other team but the league cannot be held responsible if the player refuses to play for the team. Refusal-player rights are still owned by the team for one calendar year plus 2 weeks.

A team may choose to release a player during trade windows by removing the player from their official online roster and by sending the league a notice.

For the 2008-2009 season, each TFL-ELITE team owns the rights to all of their players from their club's 2007-2008 roster, defined by the club's roster at the end of their final playoff game. No other team may sign a player belonging to one of the teams until 2 weeks prior to the first regular season game.

In order for a returning player's rights to be retained by their team, the player must sign a contract with their team prior to the deadline and the General Manager must post the player's name on the official Toronto Floorball League website by midnight of deadline day.

Any players not signed and posted by this deadline will be granted free agency allowing them to sign with any Toronto Floorball League team.

Signing can refer to a verbal or written agreement between the player and the team at the team's discretion. In the event of a dispute, the team must prove it has signed the player.

FLOORBALL FORUMS

This year all GMs are encouraged to use the floorball forums as the central means of communication between players and other GMs. GMs are required to inform their players to register to the website and check the site frequently for updates.

The floorball forums can be found at www.floorballforums.com

Every club will have its own password protected team zone placed on the website forums. GMs please share the password with your players and protect the password with the same discretion that is required of any private club communication.

ROSTER RULES

The maximum club roster size is 13 including a maximum of two goaltenders. There is no minimum roster size.

No club can hold more than two full-time goaltenders on their roster at any time.

RECRUITMENT

To encourage recruitment, each TFL-ELITE General Manager can recruit new players that can be registered directly to their club. New players are defined as players that were not registered to play in the TFL in the previous season at the Elite level. Players from the Intermediate league are eligible to be recruited.

ENTRY DRAFT, MID-SEASON ENTRY DRAFTS & EXPANSION DRAFT

There is no entry draft, mid-season drafts or expansion draft.

“EUROPEAN” DRAFT

In the spirit of fairness and to prevent teams importing ringers, there is a draft for players joining the Toronto Floorball League from outside of the province of Ontario that have NOT played in the Toronto Floorball League previously.

This draft will take place 2 weeks prior to the start of the first Toronto Floorball League game. All players that wish to participate in the Toronto Floorball League from outside of the province of Ontario must pay the league a \$25 draft fee.

The order of the draft will be determined by a random draw of ballots, with the team finishing last in the previous regular season having the best chance of winning the first pick and so on. Each team will pick in the order determined by the lottery, but if they do not want to pick up the European player by making room on their roster, they can pass on the player and that player is placed back in the draft. If no one wishes to pick up the player they will not participate in TFL Elite and their draft fee will be refunded. Each team may draft only one "European" player.

- 6th Place – 6 ballots
- 5th Place – 5 ballots
- 4th Place – 4 ballots
- 3rd Place – 3 ballots
- 2nd Place – 2 ballots
- 1st Place – 1 ballot

No team can move up or down more than 2 spots in the draft order. The league's plan is to allow one European player or players from outside of Ontario to be recruited per team starting next season.

TRADES

Trades are allowed only during league trading windows, currently of which there are two:

1. The period from the conclusion of the last elite league playoff game of the previous season to midnight 2 days prior to the start of the first regular season game.
2. The period from the conclusion of the last elite league game prior to the Christmas holiday to midnight 2 days prior to the start of the first regular season game after this holidays.

There are unlimited trades during the trade window. Trades will only be announced once the trade window is complete so a player will visibly change clubs at most TWICE during the course of the season.

Trading for draft picks or future considerations is not allowed – all trades must involve strictly players. Teams may only trade players that they currently own the rights for.

EXPANSION DURING THE SEASON

Teams may add players from outside of TFL Elite to their roster at any time during trading window, provided that they do not exceed the maximum roster size at any time. This must be done on the official website and in writing to the league staff. Players that are dropped from the roster become free agents and can be picked up by any team.

Adding players from outside the province of Ontario or players that a team does not own the rights to is not allowed.

A hardship rule exists whereby if a club is in desperate need of a goaltender due to injury or other reasons the league may grant the club to recruit a goaltender outside the trade window but not after the final trade window has expired.

GAME LENGTH

The length of games will be 3 x 20 minutes with a 5-minute warm up session and 3-minutes in between periods, time permitting. The last three minutes of the game shall be effective/stop time.

TIES/SHOOTOUTS

If a game ends in a tie after regulation time is complete, a four-player shootout will ensue immediately after the end of the game with each team selecting four shooters. If the game is tied after four shooters, it will be sudden death until a winner is determined. The same four shooters shall be used in the second round but no player can shoot a third time until every field player has shot at least once. Whether a team shoots first or second is determined by a coin toss with the home team choosing the side of the coin.

REGULAR SEASON

The Regular Season will determine the rankings of the clubs for the playoffs. Regulation wins are worth three points, shootout wins two points, shootout losses one point and a forfeit results in one point being subtracted from the standings. If a club does not provide two officials for games when requested, a point will be subtracted from the standings each time club officials are not present.

SCHEDULE

The organizers retain the right to change the published match schedule. In the event of such a change during the season, the organizers will do their best to contact the clubs affected, but it is the responsibility of the club's General Manager to check the website for changes. Changes will be posted 48 hrs prior to the scheduled start of the game, circumstances permitting.

TIE BREAKERS

1. Points in the season
2. Greater number of wins in the season
3. Head to Head record between the tied clubs (including Goal Difference if necessary)
4. Goals scored in games between the tied clubs
5. Total goal differential during the season
6. Goals scored during the season
7. Coin toss.

PLAYOFFS

All the clubs make the playoffs. In a structure of 6 teams, the top 2 clubs receive a bye while the bottom four clubs play in a best-of-three quarter final playoff round. Winners of the first round face the top 2 seeds in a semi-final round best-of-three playoff. The third place and championship playoff rounds follow. After each round, the following round match-ups will be determined by seeding the clubs according to their regular season ranking.

Players are only eligible to participate in the playoffs if they play in at least 25% of the team's regular season games. This requirement rises to 50% if the player is added to the roster after the February trade window. Playing is defined as stepping on the court for at least one shift during the game. The league in the case of injury can grant an exception but the team must apply prior to the conclusion of the regular season.

STATISTICS & GAME ROSTERS

The club Captain (chosen by the General Manager) must submit their club roster to the secretariat 10-minutes prior to the start of the match. A player not on the club roster cannot participate in the game and will not count towards a games played.

The club Captain must sign the Match Protocol after their game has ended. Once the Match Protocol is signed, changes cannot be made to the game statistics and they will be considered final.

MATCH PENALTIES

Match penalty 1 leads automatically to suspension until the end of the match in question, match penalty 2 to suspension until the end of the match in question and also for the next match, match penalty 3 leads to an extended suspension as determined by the league jury. In the case a match penalty is awarded, the officials must submit a written report to the league staff within 24 hours outlining the cause of the penalty and suggested further action, if any. If a member of the league jury is the player facing an extended suspension, that player does not cast a vote in the jury's suspension ruling.

JERSEY POLICY

Each team must have their own set of matching jerseys and shorts according to the rules outlined by the International Floorball Federation.

Teams must purchase their jerseys from the league's exclusive apparel supplier FloorballPro Inc.

The jersey policy states that all players must wear their club jersey in order to play. No exceptions are granted for this requirement at any time. If a team cannot provide jerseys for all the players, a special exemption may be given to affected players if the team has ordered new jerseys and is waiting for them to arrive. This special exemption is not granted for playoffs game.

In case the referees decide that one club should change shirts due to the similarity of the opponents' colors, the club listed as the away club in the official match schedule is obliged to change. Where a club does not have a second set of jerseys, the league will provide pinnies in exchange for a piece of identification.

FORFEIT RULE

A club must field 4 players and a goaltender in full uniform within 10 minutes past the scheduled start time of the game or the club not reaching the required number of players will forfeit the game 5-0 and lose one point in the standings. If both teams forfeit they will both lose a point in the standings.

GOALTENDER RULES

A club may dress any roster player as their goaltender but the club is responsible for supplying suitable equipment for the goaltender, with the exception of a mask which is available for use from the league on an emergency basis.

A goaltender can play as a player and a goaltender in the same game, but only if they began the game as a player. A goaltender may not become a field player in the same match as per IFF rules.

OFFICIALS

Each club may be requested to provide officials to officiate games throughout the season. These officials will be expected to officiate matches as per the schedule laid out. Failure to provide officials results in a subtraction of one standing point per infraction. The league is working hard to have non-players officiate but if this is not possible cooperation of the teams will be required.

BOARDS

Clubs are required to help set-up boards 15-minutes prior to their scheduled start-time if they have the first game of the evening or take-down boards for 15-minutes after their game if they play in the late game. A minimum of 3 players per club is required and it is the GM's responsibility to make sure his or her club contributes. If the league receives complaints that certain clubs are not taking this responsibility seriously, sanctioning will follow including removing standings points.

ALL-STAR GAME

The league will organize an All-Star Skills Competition (if possible) and Game during the season. The TFL champions from the previous year will face off against the leagues' top players. At the time of winning the TFL championship the winning team retains the player rights for all players on the winning roster for the All-Star game for the following season.

Player selection will be done as follows: The GM of the defending champion club will GM the winning club roster from the previous season and additionally be allowed to fill vacant spots with other players from his or her current season's roster if all players from the previous season are unable to participate. All players on the winning team will be reunited regardless of player transactions throughout the season.

The GM of the second-placed club based on the club standings two weeks before the All-Star game will pick and manage the opposing club. The 2nd placed club GM will select 14 players each from the remaining clubs (excluding players who played on the championship team from the previous year). For the All-Star Team, at least two representatives from each team other than the defending champions must be chosen and there must be two goaltenders on the team who split the game time equally.

AWARDS

General Managers nominate one player from their club for inclusion on the ballot for each league award, if the club has eligible players in that category. The league will organize a vote open to all league participants who then select the award winners from the ballot based on the player's regular season performance. The exception is the Playoff MVP Award which is selected by the GMs. GM's must submit the nomination form 3 weeks prior to the end of the regular season after which award voting will be opened.

TFL Awards:

- The Michael Weiss Award (Most valuable player)
- Top Scorer (Most points)
- Power Player (Highest points per game average)
- Best Defensive Player
- The Barry Leung Memorial Award (Top goaltender)
- Most Improved Player (Most improved returning player)
- Top Import (Best new player to the TFL with previous floorball experience abroad)
- Top Rookie (Best new player to the TFL with no previous floorball experience abroad)
- Most Sportsmanlike Player
- Team Leader
- General Manager
- Officiating Pair

- Playoff MVP (Most valuable player in the playoffs)

WARM UP BALLS

Each team is required to purchase their warm-up balls from FloorballPro Inc.

PROTESTS

Protests should be delivered to the jury or to the hall secretariat in written form not more than 1 hour after the conclusion of the match being protested. The protest fee is CAD 30. The protest can be delivered as a hard copy to the hall secretariat or submitted electronically to the League Commissioner at juha.mikkola@floorballcanada.com. In case of the protest being refused, the fee is not refunded but the jury may make an exception if they find that the protest was not frivolous.

LEAGUE JURY

The league jury will be made up of league staff. The verdict of the jury is final.

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