

TFL Today

Friday, June 20, 1997

<http://tflfootball.com>

Volume VIII, No. 1

IMPORTANT DATES

Draft Lottery videotaping
July 3

Draft lottery video mailed
July 6

Deadline for paying fees
July 20

Media guide mailed out
Aug. 1

TFL Convention in Denver
Aug. 27-31

Season begins
Aug. 31

LATEST LINE

Here are the odds on each team winning the T. Rex (based on each team's number of wins and total points over the past three seasons):

Marley	4-1
Dugway	5-1
Flint	6-1
Alaska	8-1
Bagdad	8-1
Dutch Harbor	10-1
Narcoossee	12-1
Denver	15-1
East Hartford	15-1
Limerick	18-1
Baltimore	25-1
Sarasota	25-1
Willow	25-1
Anchorage	30-1

CONTACT US

TFL Publications

403-5 Riverside Dr. No. 22
Covington, KY 41011
606-261-3810
513-768-8451

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TFL cracks down on late payments

By Ken Sain
Special to TFL Today

Scott Lacy, the man who would be Father of the TFL if he could successfully rewrite history, tried to give me some words of wisdom.

"Ken, we have a number of hard-headed, very independent-minded people in this league," Lacy said. "If you come down on them too hard, they'll bolt just because of that."

Lacy, Steve Katz and I sat down last April and discussed what we consider the biggest problem facing the TFL. The fact that every year, we cannot pay the winners in a timely manner because a few owners are late paying what they owe.

We think we have a solution.

Starting this year, we are asking all owners to pay \$150 in advance. This will cover the \$100 league fee, and the other \$50 should cover your transactions for the season.

If you do not use \$50 in transactions, then that money will be refunded to you.

All that money will be placed into a six-month CD account, and the interest earned will go toward league expenses and/or prize money.

More importantly, our

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

Subject: League fees are due

Deadline: Should be postmarked by July 20

What if you miss the deadline? The Commissioner begins looking for a team to replace yours. If your money is not in Steve Katz's hands by Aug. 1, then a new team takes your spot.

Isn't that drastic? Maybe, but we have a problem each year where winners are not being paid because one or two owners forget to send in their money and we're too nice to harass them. Forcing people to pay in advance is the only way we can think of to make sure the winners get paid on time.

How much? \$150. \$100 league fee, \$50 to cover your transactions for the season. Plus any money you owe for previous seasons.

What happens to the money? As soon as all money has been paid, the treasurer will deposit the \$2100 into a six-month CD account. The interest will go toward expenses or be added to the pot.

When do we get paid? The CD will mature on Feb. 1, and the winners will be paid then.

winners will get paid in February every year, instead of July or August, or in some cases, never.

All of the winners from 1996 are waiting to be paid because three owners still owe money. I have not been paid my 1995 winnings.

That is why Katz, Lacy and I believe this plan is necessary.

So what happens if an owner does not pay in advance?

Well, we hate to do it, but

we find another owner. We have requests from three people right now who want to join the league.

It is unfair to the owners who pay on time each season to be denied their prize money because a few put off paying until they forget about it and we do not want to harass friends for money.

TFL owners should now look at July 20 as taxpayers do April 15. It is a deadline that needs to be met.

Proposed TFL bylaws

1. THE ORGANIZATION

A. The name of the organization is TFL (Times Football League).

B. The purpose of the organization is to offer friends a means to compete in fantasy football while entertaining each other.

2. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership is open to anyone who has a desire to join, regardless of sex, race, religion or sexual orientation, providing there are enough openings to accommodate new members.

B. At no time will the number of TFL teams be more than half the number of National Football League teams.

C. Each franchise has one vote in all TFL matters, even if that team has multiple owners.

D. Dues will be sent out by the Commissioner on June 20 and must be paid by owners on July 20. Failure to pay by that date could result in forfeiture of franchise.

E. New franchises may be granted to expand the league or to replace another franchise. The Commissioner shall recommend an owner in such cases. That owner must be approved by a majority vote of the existing owners. Once approved, the new owner shall have the same rights as the rest of the owners until such time as he/she forfeits his/her franchise either voluntarily or through non-payment of dues or is stripped of their franchise.

F. If any owner violates TFL rules or the competitive spirit of the TFL rules, the commissioner can recommend his/her franchise be retired. A two-thirds or more vote of the owners is required to strip the franchise from an owner.

3. OFFICERS

A. Only the Commissioner is elected.

B. Terms of elected officer: Once elected, the Commissioner can maintain his/her position for as many years as he/she desires, unless

NEW BYLAWS AND RULES

Here are the proposed bylaws and rules for 1997. If you disagree with anything, please call Sain and tell him. He will poll the other owners to see if they have similar feelings and make any changes you recommend before putting the final bylaws and rules in the media guide.

challenged by another owner. Once challenged, an election shall be scheduled no later than June 30. The person earning at least 51 percent of the votes in the election shall be Commissioner.

The Commissioner shall appoint a Treasurer, who may keep that job as long as they wish with the continued approval of the Commissioner.

4. DUTIES

A. The Commissioner is responsible for scoring the league each week and declaring the outcome of all games.

The Commissioner ensures publication of TFL Today each week and the media guide each season.

The Commissioner must act as judge in any dispute between owners, interpreting the rules when they do not address a specific circumstance.

The Commissioner administers the TFL Web Site, making sure all information is updated.

The Commissioner must make sure there are an even number of teams to participate each season, and conduct the TFL Draft.

Above all, it is the Commissioner's responsibility to ensure a fair, and level playing field for all owners. For that reason, he can veto any transaction he/she believes is not in the best interest of the league. (He/She can be overruled on any issue by a two-thirds vote of the owners).

B. The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting the dues,

placing the money into a interest-paying account and paying the winners at the end of the season.

The Treasurer must pay all winners and any money owed to other owners by Feb. 10.

5. FINANCES

A. Each franchise must send \$150 to the Treasurer postmarked on or before July 20. This total includes \$100 in dues and \$50 as their personal bank for the season to cover the costs of transactions and fines. No transactions will be allowed if there is no money in that owner's account to cover the move.

B. The Treasurer shall deposit all the dues into the highest earning six-month Certificate of Deposit account he/she can find before or on Aug. 1. All interest earned from this account shall be applied to league expenses or shall be added to the prize pot.

C. When the season is over, the Treasurer shall determine which owners have money owed to them because they did not use all \$50 in their bank account for transactions. Then, the Commissioner shall send the Treasurer an expense report by Dec. 15 detailing the league's expenses for the season. If the Treasurer agrees with those expenses, then the Commissioner shall be reimbursed from the fund. Whatever money is left in the fund after money owed owners is returned and the Commissioner has been repaid his/her expenses, shall be split in this manner to the winning owners:

Regular season champ:	5 percent
Points scoring champ:	5 percent
Sweeney Bowl champ:	40 percent
Runner-up:	15 percent
Third place:	11 percent
Fourth place:	9 percent
Fifth place:	7 percent
Sixth place:	5 percent
Pee Wee Bowl winner:	3 percent

D. The Treasurer must issue a complete report in the final TFL Today each season detailing the finances of the league.

Proposed TFL rules

THE GAME

R.1 — Each team will have two quarterbacks, three running backs, three receivers, two kickers and two defenses. A starting lineup consists of one quarterback, two running backs, two wide receivers, one kicker and one defense.

R.2 — Lineups are due 15 minutes prior to the start of the week's first NFL game. If an owner fails to call in his lineup by the prescribed time, his previous week's lineup is automatically started. If the owner does not call in his lineup for the first week of the season, then the Commissioner shall pick the lineup for him, but that owner will be given a forfeit loss with his team being awarded 0 points.

R.3 — At the end of Week 14, the three division champions and three wildcard teams advance to the playoffs. The divisional champions are awarded the top three seeds and the wildcard teams seeds 4-6. The regular season and points scoring champion cannot compete in the same semifinal bracket. If they are, the points-scoring champ switches places with the lowest seed in the other semifinal bracket. Seeding will be done based on the team's won-loss record. Tiebreakers are as follows: 1) Most cumulative points; 2) Best head-to-head record; 3) Most points scored in head-to-head meetings; 4) Best record vs. other playoff teams.

R.4 — In any situation in which tie-breaking criteria is insufficient, a best-of-three coin toss will be employed.

R.5 — The first round of the TFL playoffs (NFL Week 15) will pit the No. 3-through No. 6-seeded teams against one another. The wildcard winners advance to the semifinals (NFL Week 16) against the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds. Semifinal winners advance to the Sweeney Bowl (NFL Week 17). The third-place game and fifth-place game also is contested during NFL Week 17.

SEND LEAGUE FEES TO

Steve Katz

TFL Treasurer

6545 Quiet Hours No. T1

Columbia, MD 21044

410-381-8619

MEDIA GUIDE CHANGES

Ken Sain

606-261-3810

513-768-8451

R.6 — Teams not making the Sweeney Bowl Tournament participate in the Pee Wee Bowl Tournament. They shall be seeded using the same criteria in R.3. The quarterfinals take place in Week 15, the semifinals in Week 16, and the championship in Week 17. All teams will play during all three weeks with the ninth, eleventh and thirteenth-place games also taking place on Week 17.

R.6 — In the event any playoff game ends in a tie, the tiebreakers are: 1) Most points scored by reserves; 2) Most total yardage gained by starting lineup (excluding kickers and defenses); 3) Most total yardage by reserves (excluding kickers and defenses).

R.7 — In any case where the rules are ambiguous or insufficient, the issue shall be resolved by the Commissioner.

TRANSACTIONS

T.1 — You may release a player and replace him with any free agent for \$5. No free agent acquisitions may be made between 15 minutes prior to the first NFL game of the week and 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, Eastern time.

T.2 — The team with the poorest won-loss record has priority on free agent acquisitions on any day. If two teams with identical records select the same player, the team which has scored the fewest points will be awarded the player. If point totals are

identical, the team that has had the most points scored against them shall be awarded the player.

T.3 — Due to NFL bye weeks, TFL owners may need to reserve players for weeks during which roster players are idle. Reserve acquisitions cost \$5 and may be made only if the roster backup at that position is also idle. Reserve moves have no priority over free agent acquisitions. If two owners claim the same player as a reserve on the same day, the rules regarding free agents in T.2 shall apply. A player claimed as a reserve cannot be claimed by any team until he returns to the free agent pool, which he does automatically at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday. This includes the team that picked him up as a reserve.

T.4 — Any injured player can be replaced at no cost. Injury acquisitions are subject to the rules regarding free agents outlined in T.2. Injury replacements remain active until the injured player returns, at which time the owner must drop one of the players. If the injured player competes in a game before the owner waives his replacement, the owner is fined \$5.

T.5 — Any player placed on waivers during a week is frozen until 12:01 a.m. (Eastern time) the following Tuesday. The player then returns to the free agent pool and is subject to the rules outlined in T.2

T.6 Teams may trade players with other teams, provided that each team has the proper number of players at the proper number of positions after the trade is completed. No trades may take place after the Week 10 games have been completed. There is no charge for trading players.

T.7 Owners may not make transactions unless they have the funds in their personal bank account to cover the cost of the move.

NOTE: The scoring system will remain the same as used in 1996.