



# **Bye-Laws/Code of Conduct of South Dublin Panthers**

## **American Football Club**

### **1. Introduction**

The aim of this members club is to play American football in a safe, disciplined and fun way. The following rules exist for the purpose of achieving this aim and all members are required to abide by them accordingly.

### **2. Rules and Regulations**

- 2.1. It is the duty of all members of the South Dublin Panthers AFC to familiarise themselves with all the rules of the club and that of the national governing body (IAFA).
- 2.2. The management board has the power to deal with any breaches of this code by the players, coaches or other members as it sees fit, including the ultimate sanction of banning the offending individuals from all club activities and revoking their membership of the South Dublin Panthers AFC as per section 5 of the club constitution and bye-laws.
- 2.3. The Club is committed to encouraging the highest ethical standards. All individuals involved in the Club should conduct themselves with respect, integrity, transparency, accountability, and in a fair and equitable manner.
- 2.4. The head coach is responsible for the discipline of players on the field and clubhouse. The player code of conduct will be enforced by the head coach and the assistant coaches. If any breach by an individual are recurring or of a serious nature they must be drawn to the attention of the management board.
- 2.5. All coaches must be addressed by their title, i.e. 'Coach'. Due respect should be shown at all times to all coaches and indeed all members of the club staff, being on or off the field.

### **3. Conduct at Away Games**

- 3.1. Club member's behaviour on the bus should take into account the other members on the bus and in particular the driver. Ensure that you clean up after yourself and leave the bus as you found it.
- 3.2. All fees for travel to the away venue must be paid before travelling to the Treasurer or Director of Football.
- 3.3. Upon arrival to the venue, remember you are representing your club and as such are expected to continue to show respect and listen to the instructions of your coach.
- 3.4. Club members are expected to help carry any equipment from the bus to the dressing rooms/field.
- 3.5. Express gratitude to the opposing team and staff for their hospitality and show courtesy to them at all times.
- 3.6. Away teams dressing rooms are to be treated with the same respect you would treat your own and to be cleaned up afterwards, ensuring it is left in the same state you found it.



#### **4. Training and Scrimmage**

- 4.1. Only sanctioned training sessions may take place after consultation with the head coach and general manager.
- 4.2. No player or captain can take it upon themselves to organise training sessions or scrimmages, whether kitted or non-kitted, during the season or off-season.
- 4.3. No training session can take place without a qualified coach being present as per the IAFA bye-laws.

#### **5. Disciplinary Procedure**

- 5.1. In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the management board will act as the disciplinary committee. Each member of this committee will have a single vote and decisions will be made by a simple majority. There must be a minimum of 5 members present. The chairman has a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 5.2. All members of the club as individuals including management shall be bound by the club constitution and bye-laws. In the case of a breach by a member, the management board has the right to raise the matter in a meeting.
- 5.3. Club members will be issued with written warnings for breaches of the rules if it is deemed appropriate by the head coach and/or management board.
- 5.4. A copy of all warnings should be relayed to the general manager for the attention of the management board.
- 5.5. If the management board deem it necessary, a member may be suspended or dismissed from the club for the breach of the club rules.
- 5.6. In the case of a suspension or a dismissal the member or parties involved can take the matter to the disciplinary committee to discuss the matter and raise any issues before the judgement is final.
- 5.7. The committee will make a fair and objective decision based on the evidence presented to them.
- 5.8. The member or parties subject to the disciplinary procedure may have one club member with them to represent or witness the procedures.
- 5.9. In the event that the member is the player representative elected to the board, he then forfeits his entitlement to vote on the matter.
- 5.10. Any person dismissed from the club may not re-join the club and are unable to transfer to an alternative IAFA team unless all monies and equipment owed to the club by that member are settled in full.

#### **6. Membership and Registration**

- 6.1. Membership of the club can be achieved by completing a registration form and returning it to the general manager in person or via email.
- 6.2. The general manager deals with all administration regarding club registration of players or coaches.
- 6.3. The new member will be given an opportunity to make themselves familiar with the club rules and constitution before making payment to the club or the league.
- 6.4. A member cannot switch teams without the expressed consent of the management



board. It is important to note that the IAFA board may overturn such a decision as stated in their bye-laws.

- 6.5. Membership fees are determined each year at the clubs AGM.
- 6.6. These fees are separate to the league fee as determined by the IAFA and are used for the day to day running of the club.
- 6.7. All fees must be paid promptly. Any member that has not paid their fees in full may not be allowed play in competitive matches.
- 6.8. Payment schemes can be put in place for members who experience financial difficulties and this can be arranged with the treasurer of the club.
- 6.9. The league registration fee must be paid in full by 31<sup>st</sup> of January each year and is not subject to any further payment agreement.
- 6.10. The treasurer is the official collector of fees and will issue a receipt accordingly. If the treasurer is unavailable the general manager can collect the fees.
- 6.11. A member who has paid their club fee and decides to leave the club before their first competitive game may have their fee refunded. The league fee is not refundable.
- 6.12. A member may not transfer from the club or join an alternative IAFA team unless all monies and equipment owed to the club by that member are settled in full.

## **7. Board Meetings**

- 7.1. The board will strive to meet on a monthly basis and will hold no less than three meetings per year.
- 7.2. An expense of €5 will be paid to all club members or coaches attending a meeting that takes place on a date or time other than before/after a regular training session.
- 7.3. No more than €60 will be paid to any member or coach for expenses in a 12 month period.

## **8. Online website and Social Media**

- 8.1. The use of social media is used as an extra point of contact between the management, coaches and players. All members are reminded that the club rules and code of conduct applies to all activity online as well as on or off the field and members are expected to conduct themselves with respect and dignity.
- 8.2. The club website, public Facebook page, private members page and twitter account will be primarily managed by the public relations officer.
- 8.3. The private players Facebook page will be managed by the coaching staff.
- 8.4. Only matters relating to on the field activity will be posted by members in the private players page.
- 8.5. The private board members Facebook page will be managed by the general manager.
- 8.6. Inappropriate comments or posts will be deleted by the relevant administrators.
- 8.7. New members or possible recruits are not to be added to any private page without consulting the relevant manager of the page.
- 8.8. Possible new recruits should be directed to the player representative or general manager.



## **9. Sponsorship, Events and Fundraising**

- 9.1. Any member can seek sponsorship for the club and are advised to contact the general manager in relation to any possible opportunities and contact details.
- 9.2. No member may accept payment or donations on behalf of the club without authorisation from the general manager.
- 9.3. No member may organise club events without the prior consultation and permission of the general manager.
- 9.4. All members are required to attend/take part in promotional, community or team activities as required.
- 9.5. A minimum of 14 days' notice will be given for such events.
- 9.6. If a member is unable to attend/take part in such events or activities, notice of 10 days must be given with a valid reason.
- 9.7. Members must not use any club equipment, the club name or logos for any external purpose without the expressed permission of the general manager.