

## **SECTION #1**

# **FOUNDATIONS OF A CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL PROGRAM**

## Developing a Championship Level Program

Mission Statement - To develop a program that is consistently one of the most respected in all of professional indoor football. Provide dynamic leadership for a championship level team which generates large levels of excitement from our fan base and sponsors. Recruit and develop a talented and high character team who strive to be champions both on and off the field. Compete with an exciting and wide-open brand of football which will drive our attendance levels to the top of the league.

### Establishment of Goals

1. **Season Goals-** Established to set the foundation for our success. Winning our league championship and Division will always be basis for this area.
2. **Daily Goals-** Will be the basis for our consistent improvement. We must work to better ourselves each day as we build toward the playoffs.
3. **Statistical Goals-** Will be established for each game and season as a measure of success. The only statistic that matters to us as a team are wins and losses.

## Mapping the Path to Success

It is important that we establish goals prior to our season. Our primary goal will be to win our league championship. There are steps that must be taken to achieve this goal. We must understand that teams do not win championships by putting on a piece of paper that they plan to win a title. Every team in indoor football in February of each year feels that they will win the league title. We must do things to separate ourselves from the pack and prepare for success. We must learn from our past mistakes and continue to do the things we have done well and have made us successful over the past years. A critical element of securing a league title is to host playoff games.

- Win League Championship
- Secure Division Title and Regular Season Division Title
- Host Home Playoff Game – Road to the Playoffs must go through Erie
- Commitment to providing “the most exciting show on turf” each week
- Commitment to securing the best possible talent for our roster
- Commitment to being ambassadors of Erie Professional Football in the community

## Player Code of Conduct

1. All athletes must participate in the team's community service efforts. Team events, such as "meet and greet," autograph signings, etc. are included as opportunities for community service. We must connect to our fan base and make them a part of our championship run. **Players are required to attend the post-game on field autograph session at all home games.**

2. Erie Explosion athletes are expected to be positive role models for all families and youth within the community and surrounding areas. This includes dressing professionally both on and off the field of play, refraining from profanity at all times.

**If a player at anytime is found to be engaging in actions that will reflect negatively on the Erie Storm Organization or its sponsors, that player will be immediately released from the team.**

3. Athletes are exemplary members of both the Erie Explosion and the SIFL. This means that athletes found engaging in activity (substance abuse of any type, alcohol, drugs, sexual harassment, or misconduct; or misconduct on the field) detrimental to the Erie Explosion or the SIFL, will be subject to suspension and, or termination of player contract.

4. Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices each week with no exception. Late arrivals for practices, games, scheduled meetings; film sessions, etc. are not tolerated. Players are responsible for the care of their team issued equipment. **All Equipment, and game jerseys will be collected prior to final game check being issued.** Failure to abide by these rules will result in suspension or termination of the contract as determined by the Head Coach. Athletes must act as professionals at all times.

5. Athletes are expected to attend all team functions and practice sessions as arranged. These times will be arranged in advance and players will be notified of any changes. Failure to attend these practice sessions without approval of the Head Football Coach will result in disciplinary action being taken. It is understood that players have work commitments and other personal matters will arise that will not allow players to attend all practice sessions. If you are going to be late or miss a practice session it needs to be cleared in advance with Shawn Liotta -not another coach or member of the team. Fines will be levied for failure to attend unless cleared.

6. Players Must Conform to all provisions set forth by the team training staff in accordance to rehab and reporting of injuries. It is the responsibility of the player to report any related injuries immediately and to receive proper treatment for those injuries as directed by the Team Trainer/ Doctor. All football related injuries must be reported immediately to the General Manager so treatment can be authorized. Players will treat all team medical personnel and trainers with the utmost respect at all times.

7. Payroll is the week following each scheduled game. This is a professional organization and you will be paid on time. At no time may a player borrow against his next paycheck. Players are not paid on bye weeks when there is no game. We will not have any scheduled practices during bye weeks.

9. Team Travel Schedule is attached. For the overnight trips and weekday games ensure that you can secure these dates off from your employer. If you are not going to be able to make a trip you must let Coach Liotta know in advance as much as possible. For all team travel all players are expected to ride the team charter unless cleared to drive to the game yourself by the Head Coach.

10. Athletes understand that their attitude, performance, results and practice attendance will be evaluated by the coaching staff on a weekly basis. Athletes must understand that this is a professional organization and that roster moves will be made for the good of the ball club each week to give us the best chance to win.

11. Players Staying in Team Housing are expected to conduct themselves as professionals at all times. Players who are being housed must reside outside the Erie, PA area. All Players who are being housed are expected to participate in all weekly team meals and public appearances unless excused by Head Football Coach. Players are to keep their rooms clean and are to be respectful to hotel staff at all times. Players are to thank the sponsors/workers who graciously provide their meals each week. Players should leave tip when dining at a restaurant where a meal is being served to your table. Players who are taking advantage of the shuttle service to team meals should leave a small tip to the driver for his service.

#### Team Meal Plan Policy

Team Meal Plan is only for players who are being housed at team hotel. No other players are to attend the meal. Players are not to bring family members, girlfriends, ext. to the team meal unless they are going to pay for their meals. If sit-down meal, players are to leave a tip for the server.

12. We will carry active players and inactive practice squad players each week on the roster. Inactive practice squad players will not be paid but will be expected to practice with the team each week and be ready at all times for a call-up to the active roster due to injury, performance, ext. Players who decline assignment to the practice squad will be immediately traded or waived from the team. We are looking for “Team” players here in Erie. *All player personnel moves and disciplinary actions are handled at the sole discretion of the Head Football Coach/Director of Football Operations whose decisions are final.*

#### 2011 Fine Schedule (Fines will be deducted from your paycheck)

Late or Missed Practice Session (w/o Clearance from Head Coach) - \$25.00

Missed Team Function or Appearance you were required to attend- \$25.00

Late for Meeting or Team Bus Departure- \$25.00

Violation of Team Meal Policy - \$50.00

Ejection from Game- \$100.00