DEAF REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LLC

SAFETY & EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Men's Tackle • Men's Flag • Women's Flag

League-wide safety standards for players, teams, owners, coaches, officials, and event staff.

Purpose: DRFL uses these requirements to promote safer participation, consistent equipment expectations, respectful competition, and clear responsibilities before, during, and after league activities.

1. General Safety Standard

- All participants must follow DRFL safety rules, game rules, facility rules, and instructions from authorized officials or league staff.
- No player may intentionally use equipment, contact, or conduct in a way that creates an unreasonable risk of injury.
- If equipment appears damaged, unsafe, altered, or improperly fitted, DRFL may require it to be repaired, replaced, or removed before participation.

2. Player Readiness

- Players are responsible for arriving properly dressed, equipped, and physically prepared for participation.
- Players should report injuries, symptoms, or equipment problems to a coach, owner, official, or DRFL representative as soon as possible.
- Participation may be stopped when a player appears unable to safely continue.

3. Required Uniform Basics

- Players must wear the approved team uniform or other DRFL-approved game attire for their division.
- Uniforms must allow officials to identify players and must not interfere with flags, protective equipment, or safe movement.
- Jewelry, accessories, or loose items that may create a safety risk should be removed or secured before play.

4. Footwear

- Players must wear athletic footwear appropriate for the playing surface.
- Footwear with exposed metal, sharp edges, damaged studs, or other unsafe features is not permitted.
- DRFL or facility staff may restrict footwear based on field or venue requirements.

5. Mouthguards

- Mouthguards are required for Men's Tackle Football and may be required for other divisions when DRFL announces a safety requirement for a specific event or format.
- Mouthguards must be intact and properly worn during play when required.

6. Men's Tackle Protective Equipment

- DRFL tackle participants must use approved soft protective football equipment required by the league for the scheduled format.
- Required equipment may include soft protective headgear, a mouthguard, and other protective items announced by DRFL for the event.
- Equipment must fit properly, remain secured, and be used as intended. Hard, exposed, altered, or unsafe components may be prohibited.

7. Men's & Women's Flag Equipment

- Players must wear an approved flag belt with flags positioned so they can be clearly seen and legally pulled.
- Clothing must not cover, obstruct, or closely match the flags in a way that prevents fair play.
- Hard or dangerous protective equipment is not allowed unless specifically approved by DRFL.

8. Footballs & Game Equipment

- Game footballs, flags, cones, down markers, pylons, and similar equipment must be appropriate for the division and field conditions.
- Damaged or unsafe game equipment should be removed from use immediately.
- DRFL may inspect game equipment before or during an event.

9. Prohibited Equipment

- No equipment with sharp edges, exposed hard parts, dangerous modifications, or other features that may injure another participant is permitted.
- No item may be used to gain an unfair advantage by hiding flags, restricting legal contact, or interfering with an opponent.
- DRFL officials may remove or prohibit any item they reasonably determine to be unsafe.

10. Equipment Inspection

- Players, coaches, and owners should inspect equipment before practices, games, and events.
- Officials or DRFL representatives may conduct additional visual safety checks.
- Passing an inspection does not remove the player or team's responsibility to keep equipment safe throughout participation.

11. Field & Sideline Safety

- The playing area should be checked for obvious hazards when practical, including unsafe surfaces, debris, equipment placement, or restricted areas.
- Players and team personnel must remain in authorized sideline areas and keep walkways and emergency access clear.
- Only authorized personnel should enter restricted game or medical areas.

12. Weather & Environmental Conditions

- DRFL may delay, suspend, relocate, shorten, or cancel activities because of lightning, severe weather, extreme heat, poor air quality, unsafe field conditions, or facility problems.
- Participants should follow hydration, rest, and weather instructions issued by DRFL, event staff, or the facility.
- Safety decisions take priority over completing a game or event.

13. Injury Response

- Play should stop when necessary for an injured player or when an official determines continued play may be unsafe.
- An injured player should not be pressured to continue participating.
- When emergency care is needed, participants should follow the event emergency plan and directions from trained responders or emergency services.

14. Coach, Owner & Team Responsibilities

- Owners and coaches are responsible for helping players understand and follow these safety and equipment requirements.
- Teams should communicate equipment requirements before practices, games, travel, and special events.
- Coaches and owners should not knowingly allow a player to participate with equipment that is visibly unsafe or prohibited.

15. Officials & DRFL Authority

- Officials may stop play to address unsafe equipment, dangerous conduct, injuries, or field hazards.
- DRFL may require equipment changes, remove unsafe equipment, or restrict participation until a safety concern is corrected.
- DRFL may update these requirements when needed for safety, facility rules, insurance requirements, or changes to league operations.

Quick Equipment Reference

Division	Required Basics	Division Equipment	Not Allowed
Men's Tackle	Approved uniform, athletic footwear	Approved soft protective gear, mouthguard, and other DRFL-required items	Unsafe hard/exposed parts, sharp or altered equipment
Men's Flag	Approved uniform, athletic footwear	Approved flag belt and visible flags	Equipment or clothing that blocks flags or creates a safety risk
Women's Flag	Approved uniform, athletic footwear	Approved flag belt and visible flags	Equipment or clothing that blocks flags or creates a safety risk

Important Notes

- This document is a league safety and equipment policy. Detailed playing rules, penalties, scoring, timing, and field procedures belong in the Official DRFL Game Rules.
- Event-specific requirements may be stricter when required by a facility, insurer, tournament host, or applicable law.
- When there is a conflict between this document and a specific event safety notice, the stricter safety requirement should be followed for that event.

Deaf Regional Football League LLC (DRFL)

Safety First • Fair Play • Respect • Community