

SHAKOPEE YOUTH FOOTBALL

NOTABLE NFHS 2011 RULES

Referee Authority	Rule 1-Sec.1-Art.6: The referee has authority to rule promptly, and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, on any situation not specifically covered in the rules. The referees' decisions are final in all matters pertaining to the game.
Timeouts	Rule 3-Section 5-Art. 11: (paraphrased) A team may take a time-out to review a decision or problem with the rules. If the conference results in the referee altering his ruling, the opposing coach will be notified, the revision made, and the time out shall be an official's time-out. If the referee's ruling prevails, the time-out remains charged to the team requesting the time-out.
Free Block Zone	Rule 2-Sec.17-Art.1: The free-blocking zone is a rectangular area extending laterally 4 yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3 yards behind each line of scrimmage. A player is in the free-blocking zone when any part of his body is in the zone at the snap.
Illegal Block	Rule 9-Sec.3-Art.5: A player shall not clip or block an opponent in the back except in the free blocking zone when contact meets requirements of Rule 2-17 (free blocking zone) or when using hands and arms to contact an opponent above the waist in warding off a blocker, or when attempting to reach a runner, or catch or recover a loose ball which he may legally touch or possess, or to tackle a runner or player pretending to be a runner.
Clipping/Blocking in the Back	Rule 2-Sec.5-Art 1: Clipping is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is from behind, at or below the waist, and not against a player who is the runner or pretending to be the runner. Art 2: Blocking in the back is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is in the opponent's back, inside the shoulders and below the helmet and above the waist, and not against a player who is the runner or pretending to be the runner. Art 3: Such cases shall not be ruled clipping unless the official sees the initial contact. When in doubt, the contact is legal and not from behind. <i>(15-yd penalty)</i>
Block below waist	Rule 9-Sec.3-Art.2: A player shall not block an opponent below the waist except: a. in the free blocking zone (see Illegal Block Rule) when contact meets requirements (Rule 2-17) b. to tackle a player with, or pretending to have, the ball. <i>(15-yd penalty)</i>
Chop Block	Rule 9-Sec.3-Art.6: A player shall not chop block. Rule 2-Sec.3-Art.8 Chop block is a combination block by two or more teammates against an opponent other than the runner, with or without delay, where one of the blocks is low (at the knee or below) and one of the blocks is high (above the knee). <i>(15 yard penalty)</i>
Illegal Contact	Rule 9-Sec.4-Art.2: No player shall: b. Charge into or throw an opponent to the ground after he is obviously out of play, or after the ball is clearly dead either in or out of bounds. In other words, players shall not HEADHUNT 30 yards away from the play and coaches should teach their kids that such an activity is illegal and dangerous. c. Pile on any player who is lying on the ground. i. Butt block, face tackle or spear. (Butt Block is a blow driven directly into an opponent with the face mask, frontal area, or top of the helmet as the primary point of contact.) Rule 9-Sec.4-Art.7: No defensive may use his hands to slap the blocker's head <i>(all 15-yd penalties)</i>
Snap Rule	Rule 7-Sec.1: a. The snapper may be over the ball...and no part of his person, other than a hand(s) on the ball, may be beyond the foremost point of the ball. b. The snapper may lift the ball for lateral rotation but may not rotate end-for-end or change the location of the ball. c. The snapper may not remove both hands from the ball, make a false snap or fail to pause before the snap. d. An act clearly intended to cause the defense to encroach. <i>(5 yards penalty)</i>
Coin Toss	Rule 3-Sec. 2: Not more than four captains from each team may be present at the coin toss. The visiting captain shall call.
Walk-ons	Rule 7-Sec.2-Art.1: After the ball is marked ready for play, each offensive player who participated on the previous down and each substitute for the offense must have been, momentarily, between the 9-yard marks, before the snap. <i>(5-yd penalty)</i> Also, Rule 9-Sec.6-

	Art.4d: To use a replaced player or substitute in a substitution or pretended substitution to deceive opponents at or immediately before the snap or free kick. <i>(15-yd penalty)</i>
Runner Assistant	Rule 9-Sec.1: An offensive player shall not push, pull or lift the runner to assist his forward progress. <i>(5-yd penalty)</i>
Fighting/Illegal Personal Contact	Rule 9-Sec.4: No player or non-player shall fight, strike, kick, or knee an opponent. Also, no player or non-player shall intentionally contact a game official. <i>(15-yd penalty & disqualification)</i>
Neutral Zone	Rule 2-Sec.28: The Neutral Zone is as wide as the length of the ball, and is expanded following the snap up to 2 yards on the defensive side of the line of scrimmage.
Inadvertent Whistle	Rule 4-Sec.2-Art.3: An inadvertent whistle ends the down. During a down, or during a down in which the penalty for foul is declined, if an inadvertent whistle occurs while: a. A legal forward pass or snap is in flight, or during a legal kick, the down shall be replayed. b. The ball is loose following a backward pass, fumble, illegal forward pass or illegal kick, the team last in possession may choose to put the ball in play where possession was lost or replay the down. c. The ball is in player possession, the team in possession may choose to accept the play at that spot or replay the down.
Pass Interference	Rule 7-Sec.5-Art.7: Pass Interference restrictions only apply beyond the neutral zone and only if the forward pass crosses the neutral zone. Art. 8: Pass interference restrictions begin for offense at the snap and for defense at the release of the pass. Art. 10: It is forward-pass interference if any player, offense or defense that is beyond the neutral zone interferes with an eligible opponent's opportunity to move toward, catch or bat the pass. <i>(15 yards from previous spot and automatic first down if by defense or 15 yards from previous spot and loss of down if by offense)</i> Art. 11: It is not pass interference if unavoidable contact occurs when two or more eligible are making a simultaneous, bona fide attempt to move toward, catch or bat the pass. It is not pass interference if contact by the offense is immediately made on the defense and the contact does not continue beyond the neutral zone.
Roughing the Passer	Rule 9-Sec.4 Art.4: Defensive players must make a definite effort to avoid charging into a passer after it is clear the ball has been thrown. <i>(15 yards and automatic first down from previous spot or from completion.)</i>
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Rule 9-Sec.5: Baiting, taunting, insignias worn that engenders ill will; embarrass, ridicule or demean on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin; profanity, insulting, language or gestures; spiking or kicking the ball, throw it in the air; any delayed excessive or prolonged act by which a player attempts to focus attention upon himself, refusing to comply with a game official's request. <i>(15 yards & disqualification if flagrant, the 2nd unsportsmanlike foul results in disqualification.)</i>
Unsportsmanlike Conduct (by non-players)	Rule 9-Sec.8-Art.1: No coach, substitute, trainer or other team attendant shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Example are, but not limited to: a. Using Profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures. b. Attempting to influence a decision by a game official. c. Disrespectfully addressing a game official. <i>(15-yd penalty and if flagrant-disqualification and ejection. The second unsportsmanlike foul with a 15-yard penalty results in disqualification. Failure to comply, the referee may forfeit the game.)</i> Rule 9-Sec.8-Art.3: No Coach, substitute, trainer or other team attendant shall be outside the team box. <i>(1st offense warning-2nd 5 yards, 3rd and so on 15 yards)</i>
Parent/Spectator Conduct	Rule 9-Sec.9-Art.1: A player or non-player or person not subject to the rules shall not hinder play by an unfair act which has no specific rule. <i>(Penalty-the referee enforces any penalty he considers equitable including the award of a score. Warnings are recommended but optional.)</i>
Visors	Rule 1-Sec.5-Art.3c(4b): No tinted or shaded helmet visors.
Spiking Ball to Conserve Time	Rule 7-Sec.5-Art.2 Exception: It is legal to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving a direct <u>hand-to-hand</u> snap.