

FVA 6-7-8 Football

7th & 8th Grade Official Game Rules & Interpretation

Last updated: April 17, 2024

2023 NFHS Rules will govern FVA 6-7-8 FOOTBALL Games unless superseded by any local rule as outlined below:

Philosophy: FVA 6-7-8 Football is developmental with a main focus on player development and participation.

USA Football: All coaches must complete USA football coaching certification and all clubs must abide by all USA football recommendations for practice, game participation, and training.

Kickoffs – Yes

Punts – Yes

Penalties – High School Football Format

Extra Points – One (1) point by running or passing into the end zone.
Two (2) points by kicking through the goal posts.

Officials – 3 per game minimum – WIAA Certified in Wisconsin. There will be one WIAA certified official designated as “white hat” and will control the games officiating. Michigan to comply within their organization with Wisconsin and FVA 6-7-8 FOOTBALL rules.

Defense – Blitzing is legal.

Formations – All legal formations.

Age Limit – A player is considered eligible to compete in this conference’s 7th or 8th grade division by being in good standing with a Wisconsin accredited school or home-school program in a corresponding grade level.

Length of Quarter – 8 Minutes unless otherwise agreed to by both coaches.

Continuous clock rules apply in 2nd half play (35+ point differential).

Additional time/ quarters may be added if both coaches and all officials agree to accommodate teams with large participation numbers.

Weight Limits – None

Size of Football –

8th grade a TDY or TDS can be used.

Overtime – Will be played, using high school Varsity format.

7th grade a TDY will be used.

Practice Starts – Follow WIAA High School Regulations

- Per USA Football Heat Acclimatization Standards – Week 1 to be unpadding.

Kick-offs receiving team’s ball will be kicked/punted if using different sized ball.

Players’ Numbers – There are no rules for the FVA 6-7-8 FOOTBALL regarding eligible/ineligible jersey numbers.

Scrimmage Option: Any time after USA guidelines are met and at least 6 days prior to regularly scheduled games.

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Game Day – Saturday for Conference games except Labor Day weekend. Game 2 of the conference season can be played on or before the Thursday prior to Labor Day Weekend or another mutually agreed upon date. Conference games resume on Saturday each week following Labor Day, unless agreed to by both coaches and organizations. Non-conference game scheduling is done at the discretion of each organization.

Note: Head coaches/officials can request a short (max. 2 minute) stoppage of play to address the following:

- Clarify the rules if the situation presents itself.
- Discuss how to constructively adjust play to compensate for a team that is significantly over- matched.
 - This is not the time to challenge calls. It is meant to provide clarity, improve, communication, and the overall game experience for the kids.

Game Start times:

- Games away from Hortonville: 6th @ 10:30 AM, 7th @ 12:00 PM, 8th @ 1:30 PM
- Games at Hortonville: 7th @ 8:30 AM; 8th @ 10:00 AM; 6th @ 11:30AM

On days where the host organization has 3+ games, game start times will vary accordingly.

Start times may be modified when required to accommodate facility, referee and/or coaching staff availability. Start times will be agreed to by both coaches and organizations. A minimum of 48 hours notice is recommended to allow communications and logistics to be finalized amongst all teams affected.

Post Season:

- NONE,

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6th Grade Official Game Rules & Interpretation

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WIAA Rules: 6th grade teams will follow all WIAA football rules except rules listed below:

Philosophy: FVA 6-7-8 Football programs are developmental in nature with a main focus on player development and participation.

USA Football: All coaches must complete USA football coaching certification and all clubs must abide by all USA football recommendations for practice, game participation, and training.

Practice Starts – Follows WIAA High School regulations.

- Per USA Heads Up Football Heat Acclimatization Standards – Week 1 to be unpadded.

Scrimmage Option: Week prior to regularly scheduled games.

Game Day – Saturday for Conference games except Labor Day weekend. Game 2 of the conference season can be played on or before the Thursday prior to Labor Day Weekend or another mutually agreed upon date. Conference games resume on Saturday each week following Labor Day, unless agreed to by both coaches and organizations. Non-conference game scheduling is done at the discretion of each organization.

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Size of Football –

6th grade a TDJ or TDY can be used.

Players' Numbers – There are no rules for the FVA 6-7-8 FOOTBALL regarding eligible/ineligible jersey numbers.

Defense – **Blitzing is NOT legal.**

Length of Quarter – 8 Minutes unless otherwise agreed to by both coaches.

Continuous clock rules apply in 2nd half play (35+ point differential).

Overtime – NONE.

Kickoffs – NO Kickoff's at 6th Grade Levels. Format will be an automatic Kickoff. Ball to be spotted at the offensive team's own 35 yard line as a replacement for all kickoff scenarios.

Penalties – High School Football Format

Extra Points – One (1) point by running or passing into the end zone.

Two (2) points by kicking through the goal posts. **Age Limit** – A player is considered eligible to compete in this conference's 6th grade division by being in good standing with a Wisconsin accredited school or home-school program in a corresponding grade level.

Weight Limits – Yes

- **6th Grade** = The weight limit for ball carriers is **125 lbs without equipment**. This weight should be established at the beginning of the season. Players identified at that time are the only eligible carriers for the season. Directors are to communicate all eligible players with uniform numbers to opposing team. All players eligible to carry the ball shall wear a green/ identifying sticker on the back of their helmet. Players above the ball carrier weight will only play offensive line.

If an ineligible 6th grade player, playing defense, is part of a play resulting in the ineligible player becoming a ball carrier (recovers a fumble or intercepts the ball), the play remains live until the play is blown dead by the official under WIAA rules.

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Punting

6th Grade = Dead Ball Punts (modified)

6th GRADE PUNTING:

• **Offense/ Punting Team:**

- Punting team must declare a punt to the officials.
- The officials will advise both offense and defense that the next play will be a “dead ball” play.
- There is no need for players to move other than the center snap and the punter punting.
- Kicking team will snap from center.
- NO RUSH from defense.
- Fake punts are not allowed.
- Kicker needs to stay between the tackles and kick no closer than 5 yards from the line.
- Ball is marked dead where the punt is recovered by the receiving team, or where the ball comes to rest.
- Muffed punts may not be recovered by the punting team.
- **NO ADVANCEMENT OF ANY PUNTS BY EITHER TEAM!.**
- **NO BLOCKING OR TACKLING ON PUNT PLAYS.**

• **Defense/ Receiving Team:**

- Standard Defense only against the punt . There must be 8 players within (5) yards of the line of scrimmage.
- It is considered a dead ball punt.
- No rush.
- If punt is fumbled, kicker must complete the play with a kick.
- If punt does not reach line of scrimmage, it will be the defenses ball on the original line of scrimmage.
- There is no coverage from the punting team.
- The receiving team may cover or touch the ball once it crosses the line of scrimmage.
- Ball is marked dead where the punt is recovered by the receiving team, or where the ball comes to rest.
- Muffed punts may not create an advantage or be advanced by the receiving team.
- **NO ADVANCEMENT OF ANY PUNTS BY EITHER TEAM!.**
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DEFENSIVE OVERLAYS:

- i. The defense may not make any actions intended to simulate the snap of the ball or draw the offense off-sides. Shifts intended to deceive are not allowed.
- ii. The center will be uncovered. Tackles can play in the A gap but cannot play over the center. The goal is to be able to get the snap off and allow the play to be completed.
- iii. Linebackers are NOT allowed to blitz at the snap and must start 4 yards from the line of scrimmage. After the ball is snapped, they are allowed “normal” pursuit or take the appropriate pass drops on passing plays.
- iv. Linebackers will line up a minimum of 4 yards from the line of scrimmage. Between the 2 yard line and the goal line the linebackers can be 2 yards from the line of scrimmage. This is intended to keep the linebackers from “creeping” up to the line of scrimmage and overwhelming the offensive line. Any intentional blitzing identified by the officials will result in a 15 yard penalty. It is recommended officials warn the offending team before calling a penalty.
- v. Maximum of one (1) coach allowed in the huddle for 5th grade but are not allowed to coach during the play.
- vi. No “psycho-defenses” or “gimmicky defenses” allowed. An example of this would be having all defensive players standing up and shifting positions prior to the snap. Our goal is to simplify things for the offensive linemen to allow them to focus on learning technique and having some success in executing their blocking schemes.
- vii. At the 6th grade levels there will be no more than **5** defensive players, **including defensive backs**, lined up within 4 yards of the line of scrimmage on any given play.
 - All interior linemen shall be in a 3 or 4 point stance, or 4 yards off the line of scrimmage.

OFFENSIVE OVERLAYS:

- i. On offense – any formations that are within the WIAA rules can be used.
- ii. “Crack-back” blocks are not allowed. Blocks intentionally aimed at blindsiding a player are not allowed and player will be penalized.

Game Day Decorum:

- i. Officials – 3 per game minimum – WIAA Certified in Wisconsin. There will be one WIAA certified official designated as “white hat” and will control the games officiating. Michigan to comply within their organization with Wisconsin and FVA 6-7-8 FOOTBALL rules.
- ii. A pre-game meeting between opposing coaches and officials is required.
- iii. Coaches are responsible for keeping themselves 2 yards from the sideline.
- iv. Parents should also be a reasonable distance away from the sideline. This issue should be addressed with parents prior to the season in a parents’ meeting.

Post Season: NONE,