



2nd-6th Grade Advisory Group Meeting Summary

The meeting began with an open invitation for participants to ask any follow-up questions related to key topics from the initial large assembly. The Grade 2-6 group had no additional questions regarding the assembly meeting topics.

Next, the group reviewed the proposed 2025 GSFL Grade 2-6 Rules Guide, which had been distributed as a handout. It is important to note that this document was not updated to reflect the evening's discussions. An additional defensive alignment sheet was also provided as a visual reference tool.

The meeting then focused on a detailed, line-by-line review of all key rules for Grades 2-6, highlighting the intended consistency and progression from grade to grade. For example, the format transitions from nine-player football at 2nd grade to 11-player at 3rd grade. Similarly, coaches are allowed on the field at 2nd grade but are phased out by the third game of 4th grade, after which no coaches are permitted on the field.

Each area of the Rules Guide was discussed thoroughly, with unanimous agreement except on the topic of when to introduce live punts and kickoffs. Following a brief discussion, an informal vote was conducted, and the overwhelming majority favored delaying live punts and kickoffs until 7th grade. As a result, the GSFL will continue to use automatic walk-offs when a punt is declared, and after kickoffs or safeties, the ball will be spotted at the designated line of scrimmage based on the grade level.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.



7th-8th Grade Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Clock Rules and Game Timing

- The group approved the continued use of 10-minute stop-time quarters using the “old” high school clock rule. This rule stops the clock but restarts it when chains are set after a change of possession (unless the clock was already stopped for another reason). This approach helps ensure games finish within 90-minute time blocks.
- Alternative Clock Proposal: Mike (Burnsville) shared a successful model used in the South Metro — 15-minute running time quarters with stop time in the final 2 minutes. While this format reportedly wraps up games in 75 minutes, the majority preferred to stick with the 10-minute stop-time format.

Postseason Bracket Option

- Mike also presented an end-of-season model used in the South Metro, where the last two guaranteed games were scheduled inside 4-team brackets, seeded by regular-season records to create competitive matchups. While this concept has been attempted before, it requires further discussion and planning before implementation.

Team Strength & Scheduling

- A strong recommendation was made by representatives for Managing Directors to collect team strength details at the time of registration.
- It is imperative that Managing Directors vet teams appropriately to ensure balanced scheduling and foster competitive matchups.

5th Quarter Proposal

- Josh (Blaine) proposed a 5th quarter to serve as an exhibition/developmental period for increased player participation.
- While well-intentioned, concerns were raised about potential game delays, particularly during weekday play, making implementation difficult.

Season Length

- The regular season will consist of 9 games and will be completed by October 12.

Preseason Jamboree Opportunity

- Mitch (Anoka) invited teams to participate in scrimmages at the Anoka Jamboree, scheduled for August 23.

Conduct and Disciplinary Protocol

- Mitch also asked for clarification on handling unsportsmanlike conduct and ejections. Policies will be implemented for the 2025 season.

Reporting Misconduct

- If any misconduct occurs during a league game, it must be reported to both your Association Travel Director and the Gopher State Football League (GSFL).

Forfeit Policy

- Bob (Westside) raised concerns about teams skipping or not showing up to play scheduled games.
- The GSFL will enforce a formal forfeit policy for the 2025 season.

Borrowing Players

- A formal process will be created for borrowing/sharing players, especially when teams are shorthanded. More details to come.

Officials & Game Assignments

- Kevin Johnston (Supervisor of Officials) will provide contacts for official assignors and outline the rescheduling and communication procedure in writing.

7th-8th Grade – Coaches Allowed on the Sideline During Games

- To maintain consistency with 2nd–6th grade guidelines, each team will be permitted **1 Head Coach and up to 4 Assistant Coaches** on the sideline during games.