

Kansas City Youth Football League

2023 Tackle Football Rule Book

LEAGUE RULES

Mission

Kansas City Youth Football League (KCYFL) will provide games for area youth football teams. The league will deal with issues such as team formation rules, division formation rules, schedules, games, and locations. The league also collaborates internally to provide officiating, scoreboard operators, concession operators, and gate personnel. The board will be composed of the member's football associations and each member association should have two delegates each with voting rights. The group will elect one Chairman of the League to preside over meetings and a secretary to take and document notes. The purpose of the league is to provide a safe and fun environment for youth football teams. It is essential for any person affiliated with KCFYL to understand that the development and education of youth in the sport of football is the primary function. The kids come first.

Article I. Team Formation

Section I.01 Each team will be part of an approved Organization (Association, Group, City, and Club. Each Organization is responsible for player issues, non-game team issues, registration, and the formation of teams according to the league requirements for the divisions.

Section I.02 KCYFL provides the team formation guidelines and each "Organization" executes them. The Organizations are responsible for all player specific requirements, registration, weigh-in, equipment, and proper team formation.

Section I.03 Any request by a KCYFL team to move from one KCYFL league to another must be approved by the KCYFL Board

Section I.04 Each team must have its roster from an officially established geographic area and adhering to the following guidelines:

- (a) New players should always play in their Home area.
- (b) A family will have the option to request release from their home area one time. That request should start with the home area organization. Transfer requests will be reviewed by the KCYFL board. Approval requires a majority vote of the non impacted member leagues.
- (c) If a player has played with another member league in either of the previous two seasons a transfer will be required. After two complete seasons players will be treated as new.
- (d) After an approved transfer the player will remain with that organization or return to their home area and no further transfers will be approved.
- (e) Member leagues will verify any new player has not played with another KCYFL member organization. Member league is responsible for reporting all registered players outside of their approved area to the KCYFL board prior to adding that player to a team roster.
- (f) League protected geographical areas - Geographic locations are determined by the Association area, elementary school boundaries, middle school, and high school.
 - Cass County Junior Athletic Association (CCJAA) – Residents of Cass County
 - Grain Valley Sports League (GVSL) – Grain Valley School District
 - Heart of America Pop Warner (HOA) – School Districts of – Blue Springs, Independence, Lee's Summit, North Kansas City, Liberty, Kearney, and Fort Osage
 - Lee's Summit Football Association (LSFA) - Residents of Lee's Summit & Members of LSR7 School District
- (g) KCYFL member organizations recognize there are overlapping areas and families in

certain areas have three organizations that would meet the definition of “Home” area. In those cases families will have the option to choose any of those member leagues as their home organization.

- (h) Areas not included above will be treated as Open and families of those areas will have the option to choose any KCYFL member league as their first organization.
- (i) Once a player is a member of a KCYFL member organization a release will be required for that player to move to another member organization. The only exception is relocation to a new member area. Verification may be required by providing a utility bill or proof of school enrollment.
- (j) No player on a KCYFL roster shall be rostered with any other league during the season.

Article II. Rosters

Section II.01 Final rosters are due to KCYFL by July 31st

Section II.02 Maximum Player Age on August 1st----Missouri Board of Education rule for age and requirement.

Division	Maximum Age
2nd	8 years old
3rd	9 years old
4th	10 years old
5th	11 years old
6th	12 years old
7th	13 years old

Section II.03 Any roster additions will require the approval of the KCYFL board. Approval requires a majority vote of the non-impacted organizations.

Section II.04 No additions after September 15th.

Section II.05 Rosters will include the following details for each coach

- (a) Full Name
- (b) Role with the the team

Section II.06 Rosters will include the following details on each player.

- (a) Full Name
- (b) Address (House Number, Street Name, City, State, Zip)
- (c) Date of Birth
- (d) Jersey number (Whole numbers 0-99 including double 0 are allowed). Jersey numbers must be unique to individual players per roster.

Article III. Divisions

Section III.01 Divisions will be organized first by grade and then if necessary or deemed by the KCYFL Board, as tiered experienced teams within the grade.

- (a) Prior season record.
- (b) Team’s previous record from outside the KCYFL
- (c) New members to KCYFL shall provide information to the KCYFL Board.

Section III.02 Division options shall be:

- (a) A – designed for advanced teams with the majority of players having experience in tackle football with player skills to compete at the highest level of youth football.
- (b) B– designed for less experienced teams or teams with player skills not prepared to participate in Division A.
Majority of team experience in tackle football.
- (c) C - designed for teams with no experience and/or coaches with minimal experience.
Exempt from playing A teams
No Playoffs

Article IV. Coaches

Section IV.01 Head Coach Selection

- (a) All Head Coaches must be approved by the each Organization
- (b) KCYFL requires that all members of coaching staff must successfully pass a background check (paid by each Organization) and complete coaching certification (USA Football Heads Up or similar) to be tracked by each organization.

Section IV.02 Head Coach Conduct

- (a) Head Coaches shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to set a good example of citizenship and sportsmanship to all players. Swearing, creating disruptions, or generally displaying bad sportsmanship WILL NOT be tolerated. All Head Coaches and their entire coaching staff shall read, understand and agree to the “COACHES CODE OF ETHICS PLEDGE” and the “Sportsmanship Section 12” included within these rules. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action determined by the KCYFL Board of Directors

Section IV.03 Coaching Staff

- (a) Each team may have up to SEVEN total coaches on the sideline during the game shown on the team’s roster. All coaches will wear their league-issues identification visibly while on the sideline.
- (b) All members of coaching staff must successfully pass a background check (paid by each Organization) and complete coaching certification (USA Football Heads Up or similar) to be tracked by each organization.
- (c) Each organization is responsible for providing a badge or similar confirming they have met the organizations requirement for background check and training. Coaches MUST display the badge in order to be on the sidelines during the games. Coaches who do not have their badge may NOT be on the sideline during the game. Coach’s card must have the respective coaches photo on the ID card worn at games.

Section IV.04 Forfeits

- (a) If at any time a coach fails to bring his team to play in the officially scheduled game that head coach shall be suspended from participating in the next KCYFL scheduled games.

Section IV.05 Appeal of coaches suspension

- (a) A suspended coach shall have the right to appeal his/her suspension. Appeals must be submitted in writing to their member league by 7 PM on the Sunday following the suspension and the KCYFL board will review and provide a response by 7 PM on the Tuesday following the appeal.

Article V. Game Equipment

Section V.01 KCYFL requires all participants be properly equipped as defined by MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association)

Section V.02 Any participant who is not properly equipped will not be permitted to

participate in their game.

Section V.03 Points of emphasis:

- (a) Clear Visors
- (b) Readable jersey number e.g (high contrast)
- (c) 7 piece pads (Knee pads need to cover knees)
- (d) Protective equipment should be covered by uniform at all times.

Article VI. Game Rules

Section VI.01 Unless otherwise noted below, game rules shall follow NFHS rules.

Section VI.02 Ball Carrier Weight - Maximum ball carrier weight by division

Division	Maximum Ball Carrier Weight
8 man	97.0 lbs
3 rd Grade	107.0 lbs
4 th Grade	117.0 lbs
5 th Grade	128.0 lbs
6 th Grade	143.0 lbs
7 th Grade	159.0 lbs

- (a) Weight includes 7lb allowance for player equipment 2nd-4th grades/8lb for 5th and 6th grades/9lb for 7th grade. Excluding helmet. No exceptions will be made.

Section VI.03 Weigh In Procedures

- (a) Each Game site is responsible for providing scale for player weigh-ins prior to all games.
- (b) Teams can weigh-in between 45 and 60 before the scheduled game start time.
- (c) Weighmaster shall be provided by each hosting league to complete all weigh-ins at hosting leagues field(s).
- (d) Weigh Master will track official weight on Game Day Check-in Sheet
- (e) All coaches must check-in with the Weighmaster and present their badge prior to the start of the game.
- (f) Each player card must have the player's picture, first and last name, age, grade, DOB and Team. This will be kept on file with the appropriate Organization.
- (g) Players will provide their player card to the Weighmaster when they step on the scale.
- (h) The Weighmaster will retain all player cards until the conclusion of the game.
- (i) Once a player steps on the scale, that is the weight for the game, there is no re-weighing.
- (j) Any player who exceeds the ball carrier weight for his grade shall have a 1.5 inch red circle sticker placed on the helmet indicating such.
- (k) Any player who has not weighed in by the start of the second half of play for their scheduled game will be ineligible to play any portion of that game.
- (l) Coaches are responsible for presenting their team to the Weighmaster in roster order.

Section VI.04 Players Exceeding Ball Carrier Weight

- (a) Players who exceed the ball carrier weight are not allowed to carry the ball on offense.
- (b) Offensive players exceeding the ball carrier weight for their respective grade are limited to playing ONLY on the line of scrimmage and may NOT line up as an eligible receiver by formation.
- (c) Any defensive or offensive player exceeding the weight limit who gains possession during a play

may NOT advance the ball. Play will be stopped and the down ended where the player gained possession. This includes any kicking play (punt / kickoff) where the receiving team gains possession by a player exceeding the weight limit, the play shall be stopped and the player exceeding the weight limit in possession of the ball may NOT advance the ball.

- (d) Punters may be players exceeding the ball carrier weight, but may not run or pass the ball in a fake kick (where allowed by grade).
- (e) Kickers for Field Goals / PAT may be players exceeding the ball carrier weight, but may not run or pass the ball in a fake kick (where allowed by grade).
- (f) Defensive players exceeding ball carrier weight may play any position on defense.
- (g) A defensive player exceeding the ball carrier weight who gains possession during a play MAY NOT advance the ball and play shall be blown dead where possession occurred. (including the kicking team on Kickoff or Punt providing NFHS rules for gaining possession as the kicking team have been met for the respective play).

Section VI.05 On-Field Coaches (Applies only to 8 Man and 3rd Grade)

- (a) On-Field coaches are to assist in calling plays in the huddle and lining up the players to keep the pace of the game up.
- (b) MUST be at least 10 yards deeper than their deepest player on the field when the ball is snapped.
- (c) MUST avoid impacting the play in any way (making contact or as an obstacle). This is the officials' judgment.
- (d) MUST remain SILENT when the offense is aligned and the offensive center has a hand on the ball thru the end of the play. This is the officials' judgment.
- (e) A team who violates any of items b or c or d outlined above will receive ONE warning per TEAM per GAME and ANY subsequent infraction shall be considered a personal foul live ball penalty– 15 yards from the basic spot on a 100 yard field or 10 yards on an 80 yard field.
- (f) The officials have the discretion to remove a coach from the field to the sideline to be replaced by another coach at any time for any reason. Once a coach is removed from on the field that coach may not return to be an on-field coach for the remainder of the game.

Section VI.06 Game Rules Applying to 8 man Games

Game Length	Two, Thirty Minute Halves
Clock Operation	Running clock. Game clock will not stop except for time-outs and injuries The last 2 minutes of the second half will be played as regular football (clock only stops on incomplete passes, running out of bound, time-out etc.)
Timeouts	2 timeouts per half and they cannot be carried over
Field Size	Fields will be 80 yards in length. If a 100 yard field is used it will be shortened to 80 yards and the width of the field will be narrowed to the hash mark on one side
Coaches on Field	TWO Coaches
Game Ball Size	Pee-Wee or Larger
Punting	NO punt. Ball will be placed 30 yards down field from the previous line of scrimmage. If the declared punts result in the ball going into the endzone, it will be treated as a touchback.
Kick-Off	There shall be no kickoffs at this age division. Ball will be placed at the

	receiving team's own 25 yard line in place of an actual kickoff.
PAT	Successful KICK = 2 points - Protected Play - Defense may not cross the line of scrimmage until kicked (No fakes allowed) Successful PASS = 1 Point Successful RUN = 1 Point
Lineman Stances	Offensive and defensive linemen can be a 2, 3 or 4 point stance. Offensive and defensive linemen do not have to be "down".
Offensive Alignment	At least 5 offensive players will be on the line of scrimmage Only players on the right and left ends of the line of scrimmage are eligible to receive passes.
Eligibility	All running backs are eligible pass receivers if they are legally behind the line of scrimmage at the snap The passer cannot catch their own pass Only direct running is allowed in 8-man football. A player lined up on the line of scrimmage cannot receive a handoff during the play.
Defensive Restriction	No player can line up directly in front of the center. Defensive player's helmet cannot be in front of the center, including shading the center's shoulder pad. Center should be free and clear of the defensive opponent. Defensive players are otherwise allowed in the "A gaps", if they do not shade the center in any way. Defensive linemen must be 1 yard off of the ball. No blitzing
Penalties	Before the snap dead ball penalty enforced 5 yards and replay the down Offensive interference 5 yard penalty from the line of scrimmage and loss of down. Defensive interference 5 yard penalty from end of run or line of scrimmage. Automatic first down. Normal 10 and 15 yard penalties are enforced as 5 and 10 yard penalties on an 80 yard field. Violating the defensive restrictions clause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Violation - Warning • Each Additional Violation - 15 yards unsportsmanlike conduct regardless of field size

Section VI.07 Game Rules Applying to 3rd Grade Games

Game Length	Four, Ten Minute Quarters
Coaches on Field	ONE Coach
Game Ball Size	Pee-Wee or Larger
Punting	NO punt. Ball will be placed 30 yards down field from the previous line of scrimmage. If the declared punts result in the ball going into the endzone, it will be treated as a touchback.
Kick-Off	There shall be no kickoffs at this age division. Ball will be placed at the receiving team's own 25 yard line in place of an actual kickoff.
PAT	Successful KICK = 2 points - Protected Play - Defense may not cross the line of scrimmage until kicked (No fakes allowed) Successful PASS = 1 Point Successful RUN = 1 Point
Defensive Restriction	No defensive player may line up directly over the center. No blitzing

Section VI.08 Game Rules Applying to 4th Grade Games

Game Length	Four, Ten Minute Quarters
Coaches on Field	NONE
Game Ball Size	4 th = Pee Wee or Larger
Special Teams	Once a team has declared punt, field goal or kick for PAT– neither team may cross the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. The kicking team shall be given reasonable time to kick the ball without intentionally running out the clock. - No fakes allowed)
PAT	Successful KICK = 2 points Successful PASS = 1 Point Successful RUN = 1 Point
Kickoff	Live
Defensive	No defensive player may line up directly over the center. No blitzing.

Section VI.09 Game Rules Applying to 5th / 6th / 7th Grade Games

Game Length	Four, Ten Minute Quarters
Coaches on Field	NONE
Game Ball Size	5 th and 6 th = Junior or Larger 7 th = Youth
Special teams	Live
PAT	Successful Kick = 2 points Successful Pass = 1 Points Successful RUN = 1 Point

Section VI.10 OVERTIME – Applies to ALL grades:

- (a) All regular season games where the score is tied at the end of regulation will be allowed to play a tiebreaker extension.
- (b) Winner of a coin toss shall choose offense / defense first OR choose the end of the field to play. The team that lost the coin toss shall have the remaining choice.
- (c) The ball is placed at the defense's 20-yard line and the offensive team has possession until they score by touchdown or field goal, turn the ball over on downs, or turn over possession of the ball by fumble or interception. They are eligible to get a first down in the process.
- (d) If they have a turnover, their possession is ended, the teams switch offense and defense and the play resumes.
- (e) Each team is given one offensive possession.
- (f) If still tied at the end of 1st Overtime, a Second overtime shall be played – there will be NO coin flip for the 2nd overtime, the loser of the first Overtime coin flip shall have the first choice of offense/defense or end of the field.
- (g) 2nd Overtime shall be played the same as the first overtime - first and 10 at the defense's 20 yard line.
- (h) If at the end of the 2nd OT, the game is still tied, the game shall end in a TIE, Unless a Playoff Game.
- (i) In the play-offs, OT shall continue until there is a winner. 3rd OT and beyond shall begin at the Defense's 10 Yard line.

Section VI.11 Mercy Rule – Applies to ALL grades:

- (a) If the point spread is 25 points or greater in the second half, it is a mandatory running clock. Once the game goes to a running clock, it does not go back to regular time. The running clock will stop only for injuries and timeouts by the losing team. The winning team shall have no timeouts in the Mercy period.
- (b) There will be no kickoffs during this period for 11 Man games. The ball will be spotted at the 40 yard line of the offensive team. 8 Man teams will continue to receive the ball at their 20.
- (c) It is expected the winning coach of a game in a running clock situation shall demonstrate good sportsmanship by not executing trick plays/deep pass plays/onside kicks/fake kicks / etc.

Section VI.12 Minimum Play Rule (MPR) - Applies to ALL grades:

- (a) MPR will be used for all eligible players at the time of each game.
- (b) Eligible players must have attended the majority of organized team activities the week of the game and must have completed minimum required conditioning and acclimation practices to be eligible to participate in competition.
- (c) MPR Guidelines:

Program	Team Roster Size	Play Count
11-man	16-22 players	10
11-man	23 or more	8
8-man	10-16 players	10
8-man	17 or more	8

- (d) Each organization may set a higher number of minimum plays, but never less than the minimum set by KCYFL.
- (e) Protected plays and any penalty that results in the down being replayed do **not** count toward minimum play rule
- (f) All players shall receive their minimum plays by the end of the third quarter, or they shall enter the game at the start of the fourth quarter, and remain in the game until they have received their required number of plays.
- (g) Failure to adhere to the MPR guidelines will be subject to league disciplinary action including but not limited to forfeiture of the contest.
- (h) Each organization shall establish its own system for enforcing the MPR guidelines.
- (i) KCYFL will provide a template to all coaches prior to the start of the season for tracking MPR in sufficient quantity.

Article VII. Ejections– Applies to ALL grades

Section VII.01 Player ejection. If a player is ejected from a game, the player must serve a 1 week game suspension in the following KCYFL scheduled game. They will be allowed to practice and participate in team functions, but not in the next scheduled game. The player will be allowed on the sideline during that game, May wear street apparel with team jersey.

Section VII.02 Coach ejection. If a coach is ejected from a game, they must leave the facility immediately, and the coach must serve a one game suspension during their teams next scheduled KCYFL game. They will be allowed to participate in practices and team functions, but not in the next scheduled game. The coach will not be allowed at the game field or facilities during game time of suspension.

Article VIII. Penalties– Applies to ALL grades

Section VIII.01 Unless otherwise mentioned within the game play rules above, all penalties shall follow the current NFHS rules.

Section VIII.02 Other Game Rules

- (a) All other rules will default to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) rules.

Article IX. Season Schedule

Section IX.01 Preseason

- (a) Organizations are allowed to host non-padded league-wide conditioning during the Summer.
- (b) Team specific practices can begin once their team roster with minimum players has been submitted to the KCYFL Board.
- (c) Padded practices can begin 8/1

Section IX.02 Regular Season

- (a) Minimum of 6 games

Section IX.03 Post Season

- (a) For the last three weeks of the season a tournament format will be scheduled.
- (b) All playoff games must to be play at KCYL approved venues
- (c) All Championship games will be played at a single location determined annually by the KCYFL Board

Article X. Game Officials & Chain Crew

Section X.01 Organizations that host games at their facilities are responsible for providing game officials.

- (a) No less than THREE officials are required for each game - recommended FOUR officials, specifically for grades 4th and above.

Section X.02 For each game the HOME team MUST provide three Adult/HS Age volunteers to operate the chains (line to gain and down marker). The chain crew shall be on the same sideline as the HOME team. Players and coaches are NOT allowed to serve as a member of the Chain Crew.

Article XI. Spectators

Section XI.01 Parents Code of Ethics

- (a) Any parents/spectators not adhering to the “PARENTS’ CODE OF ETHICS” included within these rules may cause their team to receive unsportsmanlike conduct penalty(ies) and are subject to removal from the game site and possible suspension from attending future games to be determined by the Executive Board. All spectators shall remain behind the team’s respective bench and within the designated spectator area.

Section XI.02 The following items will not be allowed at the game site or surrounding areas:

- (a) Pets other than service animals
- (b) Alcohol
- (c) Tobacco products
- (d) Musical Instruments (other than those used by the League for game announcing)
- (e) Pyrotechnics of any type
- (f) Vapor/Electronic Cigarettes
- (g) Drones- (Unless pre-approved by the hosting organization for that game)
- (h) Confetti

Article XII. General Rules

Section XII.01 Any situation which requires the Board of Directors or Executive Board to act that involves a board member as coach or parent, that board member involved shall be excused from participating in the discussion and ruling. In the event the Executive Board wishes to replace an excused board member for a specific discussion and ruling, they may do so following this same guideline.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good Sportsmanship behavior is strived for at all events. Good sportsmanship behavior is a responsibility of players, coaches, parents/spectators, and officials. Promotion of good sportsmanship behavior at all events should include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials

As a result, participants, coaches, parents/spectators and officials need to learn that winning should be handled with grace and humility; losing should be handled with dignity and respect for your opponent. Each participant in youth sports needs to learn that good sports are winners regardless of the final score.

All members (coaches, players, parents/spectators and officials) of the Kansas City Youth Football League shall promote positive sporting behavior at all times. KCYFL urges your cooperation in making this season a memorable experience for all and we encourage everyone to be a good sport for your team and your community.

PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS

I Hereby Pledge To Provide Positive Support, Care And Encouragement for My Child Participating In Youth Sports By Following This Code Of Ethics.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember the game is for the children and not for the adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach agrees to the youth sports Coaches' Code of Ethics.

Message to Parents/Spectators:

Sportsmanship, like many of life's lessons, starts at home. Please remind your participant that sports is not about winning or losing. Youth is a time for learning, and as much as we all want our children to enjoy winning, much can also be learned through a loss. If you consider the practice and playing fields to be an extension of the classroom, praise your athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as athletes as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

We ask you to support your coach in their effort to reinforce positive sportsmanship behaviors at practices and during games. We ask that you learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place. Please show respect for the opposing players, coaches and spectators. Please show respect for the integrity and judgment of game officials. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS PLEDGE

I HEREBY PLEDGE TO FOLLOW THE COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS.

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and that I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

Message to Coaches:

Coaching children is an honor and a privilege that carries with it a moral responsibility to contribute to the healthy character development of young players. A coach must nurture good sportsmanship in each participant.

As a coach, you must abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. You must respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating the officials with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the event.

Remember, your actions set the tone for your fellow coaches, your players and their parents/spectators both at practices and during the games. We encourage you to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.