

LUBBOCK COOPER YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



2022 TACKLE GAME RULES

Last Updated: 8/24/2022

COOPER PIRATE YOUTH FOOTBALL TACKLE GAME RULES

Article I. GENERAL

Section 1.01 Offensive/Defensive Schemes

- A. It is the intent of this league to teach and enforce the offensive and defensive schemes set forth by the Cooper ISD middle school and high school coaches. This is an effort to give our players a competitive advantage once entering the middle school program, and help the middle school coaches by reducing the amount of teaching that must be done on basic fundamentals and schematics.
- B. These schemes will be adjusted as necessary each season, and possibly throughout the season, as the Lubbock Cooper YFA board of directors communicates with Cooper ISD coaches. Any changes made to the schemes during the season will be communicated clearly to the Cooper YFA coaches and enforceable by game penalty if not followed. The changes include, but are not limited to, the addition/modification of offensive and defensive schemes.

Article II. WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Section 2.01 There will be no weight that excludes participation in the league.

- A. The 5th & 6th grade tackle division will not have a weight restriction.

Article III. GAME RULES

Section 3.01 All games shall be played according to the current rules of the NCAA, with the exception of NCAA jersey numbering systems (i.e., no ineligible jersey numbers) unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

Section 3.02 Game duration

- A. Each game will consist of four (4) quarters with a 5-minute half time.
- B. Quarters in the 5th and 6th grade division shall be eight (8) minutes;
- C. Time of quarters may, by mutual consent of opposing head coaches, be shortened at any time during the game.

- D. Forfeit will occur 10 minutes after game time if a minimum 11 players are not suited up and ready to play. Coaches may mutually agree to play with fewer than 11 players per team if presented unique circumstances.

Section 3.03 Football sizes

- A. All game balls must be the sizes below (Wilson, Under Armor, Nike etc.) or otherwise as approved by the Board of Directors of LCYFA.
 - (i) 5th & 6th grade will use "Youth" Size Ball

Section 3.04 Plays

- A. Playbooks will be distributed to each team at the beginning of the season. All tackle teams will be required to use the offensive and defensive formations presented in the playbook exclusively. No additional formations will be allowed.

5th & 6th grade tackle will be required to use the offensive and defensive formations from the playbook. On defense all defensive linemen must have their hand on the ground and Base D will be a 4-4 or 4-2-5 defense and are allowed to move the 5th defensive player around as a linebacker or defensive back if in a 4-2-5 defense only. The first offense to the rule will result in a 5-yard penalty and loss of down. Second infraction will result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. Subsequent infractions will result in a 15-yard penalty, loss of down, and the Coaches will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

Section 3.05 Coaches

- A. Coaches will only be allowed on the field to help an injured player.
- B. Bench area will be restricted to players and coaches only.
- C. All coaches who are on the sideline must have credentials on their person and visibly worn. This must be the official Lubbock Cooper Youth Football Association Credential.

Section 3.06 Game winner determination

- A. The team scoring the most points in regulation time shall be judged the winner.

- B. If, at the conclusion of regulation play, both teams are tied in score, the game will be continued in the following format:
 - (i) The below description on tiebreakers shall apply to all tackle division games. There are no ties in LCYFA tackle football games.
 - (ii) LCYFA has adopted the NCAA rules for overtime. There will be a one minute break, then play is to resume. Each coach will be allowed one time out in overtime. (This is not for each overtime quarter. Only one time out for all of the overtime). Additionally, the ball is to be placed on the Fifteen (15) yard line for all possessions to start.

- C. If at any time during regulation play a team is leading another by thirty (30) points or more, from that time on the game clock shall not be stopped except for the following:
 - (i) A team still has time-outs left.
 - (ii) The official stops it.
 - (iii) Seven-play rule is still in place but not used to penalize a coach due to time shortage.

Section 3.07 Punting & Kicking Game

- A. In the 5th & 6th grade division, you may elect to punt however the punter will have five (5) seconds to get the punt off if the punt is not kicked by the five (5) seconds then the defense will get the ball where it was previously spotted. The defense may not rush the punter and the center/snapper must be uncovered as well. The punting team may not advance past the line of scrimmage until the ball is punted. If punted, the ball is returnable by the defense. Alternatively, the team may take an advancement of twenty-five (25) yards. A touchback will occur in either scenario if the ball penetrates the goal line.

- B. Punts may only occur on fourth down.

- C. All Field Goals and Extra points will have no rush and the center/snapper must be uncovered. Conversions will be 2 points if kicked and 1 point if passed or run. If the team that elects to kick a field goal exceeds the time limit of (5) seconds the kick will be blown dead and be unsuccessful. No fake kicks are allowed. The ball will be placed on the 3 yard line for a 1pt attempt and for 2pt attempt.

Section 3.08 Defensive Play

- A. No defensive player may use words similar to the quarterback's cadence prior to the snap, in an attempt to interfere with the offensive team's signals.
- B. In the 5th and 6th grade division, all inside and outside linebackers must be 5 yards off the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball.
- C. In the 5th and 6th division, you may not cover up the center position.
- D. In the 5th & 6th division, the defensive ends are allowed to standup and the defensive tackles must be in a down position (preferably a 3 point stance) at the snap of the ball.

Article IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Section 4.01 A head coach who habitually fails to conduct practice sessions according to by-laws will be subject to dismissal by the Board of Directors, and the Board will immediately appoint a replacement coach.

Section 4.02 It is the responsibility of a head coach to oversee the actions of his/her assistant coaches, players, and player parents.

Section 4.01 Player Participation

- A. All players will play minimum 7 plays per half.
- B. If there is a modification of this rule, two (2) Board members must receive written notification as to the reason.
- C. Any athlete who misses more than 30 percent of practices, unexcused, will be exempt from the mandatory seven (7) play rule. Practice is fundamental to what we strive to teach our athletes and when a player misses too much practice, there is a safety issue involved whereby, LCYFA has determined it is in the child's best interest to waive mandatory play requirements

Section 4.02 Equipment

- A. Each player must wear the uniform provided by the league.
- B. Each player must wear a mouth piece at all times during play.

- C. Each player must wear shoes. Football cleats are allowed, except shoes with steel or metal spikes or cleats.
- D. The referee's decision on the legality of any equipment being used by a player is final and not debatable.

Section 4.03 Prohibited Equipment

- A. Shoes with steel or metal spikes or cleats
- B. Hard metal or any other hard substance on a player's clothing or person
- C. Sticky substances such as grease or glue on a player's clothing, body or equipment.
- D. Any equipment that in the opinion of the referee will endanger or confuse players.
- E. No jewelry will be worn at any time by players.
- F. No TINTED visors allowed (clear visors are acceptable)

Section 4.04 Chain Crew

- A. Teams designated as the home team will provide two parents for "Chain Duty", teams designated as away team will provide one parent for "Chain Duty". Chain Duty is defined as individuals who are responsible for manning the 10-yard chains and down marker.
- B. Individuals designated for chain duty will report to the umpiring officials immediately after the coin toss or captains meeting.
- C. Individuals designated for chain duty will NOT coach or instruct players while performing duties involving the chains.
- D. Coaches will identify the chain duty individuals to the Board Member on Duty ten (10) minutes prior to the announced start time of their respective games.

Section 4.05 In the event of inclement weather, when weather or lighting restrictions occur, the head coaches and executive board will devise a plan to either continue the game at a later date or declare a winner.

Section 4.06 Playoff determination

- A. The top 4 teams in each division will be seeded according to ranking at end of season from 1 to 4. Rank 1 will play Rank 4 and Rank 2 and Rank 3 will play.
- B. In case of a tie at the end of the season the seeding will be determined by the following:
 - 1. Head to Head
 - 2. Point differential
 - 3. Points scored
 - 4. Points given up
 - 5. Coin flip best 2 out of 3