

2023 NMYFL 2 & 3 Grade Football

Playing Rules – This is 8-player Football

Field Length: 80 yards x Minimum 40 yards wide Ball Size: Pee Wee

All rules not modified below will follow the National Federation of High School Rules

Defense

1. 4-3-1 defense is required for 8-player football.
2. The 4 Defensive Lineman must be outside shade (helmet lined up on outside shoulder) with the Offensive Guard and End.
3. A 2-, 3-, or 4-point stance can be used by Defensive Lineman, but players in a 2-point stance must have hands on knees or elbows on knees at the snap.
4. The middle linebacker must be at least 3 yards off the line of scrimmage and lined up over the Center.
5. Outside linebackers must be at least 3 yards off the line of scrimmage and lined up behind the Defensive tackles.
6. The Safety must be at least 1 yard behind the linebackers lined up inside of the Defensive line unless an end lines up as a receiver then the safety can align in front of the receiver.
7. Blitzing by any linebackers or safety is strictly prohibited. Linebackers must, at the snap, be at least 3 yards off the line of scrimmage. Linebackers and safety may not begin to cross the neutral zone until after the quarterback attempts to hand off the ball or after the quarterback leaves the box, which is defined as the area between the normal alignments of offensive line.
8. Two coaches can be on the field to assist in aligning the players. Coaches must be at least five yards behind the safety and silent as soon as the quarterback is under center/lined up in shotgun and until the play begins.

Offense

1. A 5-man line is required: Center, 2 Guards and 2 Ends on each side of the center. The Ends are eligible to catch a pass if they are not a red striper but may not receive a handoff at any time.
2. 5-man line splits cannot be larger than arm to shoulder width apart.
3. A 2-, 3-, or 4-point stance can be used by the 5-man line, but players in a 2-point stance must have hands on knees or elbows on knees at the snap.
4. QB, 2 RB in the back field must line up anywhere between the 5-man line. No RB's can line up outside the Ends.
5. One of the ends can split out as a receiver, not both. However, at no time can come back to the line of scrimmage to block on any play. If the end plan to block they must block a player down field. The only player that can move out to cover them is the safety, lineman and linebackers stay in original alignment. Keep in mind if you split an end out the lineman will not be blocked at the snap.
6. Two coaches can be on the field in huddle and aligning players. Coaches must be at least five yards behind the offense and must be silent as soon as the quarterback is under center until the play begins.

Weight Restrictions

1. 2nd Grader weighing over 85 LBS and 3rd Grader weighing over 95 LBS must have a red stripe affixed to the helmet from front middle to the back.
2. Red stripe players may not line up in the offensive backfield, but may line up at End, but under no circumstances may run the ball or receive a pass.
3. Red stripe players may only run the ball if they are involved in a fumble recovery or a pass interception.

Playing Rules

1. Team benches and team fans will be on the same side of their portion of the field. Team/Coaching Box will be from 15 yd line to 15 yd line and must be 3 yds behind the out of bounds line. No fans should be inside this area.
2. No Kickoffs, teams will start on their own 20 yd line.
3. No punts – teams declare a punt and move the ball forward 20 yards unless you are inside the opponent's 40-yard line

(mid field). Then, it would be half the distance to the goal. If you are on the 20, you could only move it to the 10. Punts do not count as a play.

4. Games will be 60 plays and two halves. There will be 30 plays per half. Teams will switch ends at Halftime and take 5-minute break.

4. Teams are allowed 3 timeouts per half, but the game clock continues to run.

5. The referees will keep track of all plays and update coaches as needed.

6. A half cannot end on a penalty. Therefore, another play will be allowed.

7. The game ends at 80 minutes (1 hour 20 minutes), whether 60 plays are complete or not.

8. The referee will warn both coaches with 15 minutes remaining.

9. There will be no Overtime until the Bowl Games.

10. Referee in the Offensive backfield will keep 45 seconds play clock. The referee will tell the coach when the clock starts if needed.

11. Offensive/Defensive "Off-sides" or "false start" will not count as a play, but all other penalties will.

12. Extra points are 1 for a run, 2 for a pass and do not count as a play.

13. A mercy rule will be used when a team gets up by 21 points - all plays will count when a team is up 21 pts. This will include penalties, extra points and punts. Once the score drops below a 21-pt. difference the regular rules will be back in order.

Games Ejections

1. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from the game for any reason will be asked to leave the playing area if a player or coach and the facility if a spectator.

2. Anyone ejected from a game will also be suspended for the next game with no exceptions. Referees' judgement is final and there is no appeal.

3. All ejections are reported in the form of a game report by the ejecting referee and the association involved leadership is contacted and must supply a representative to attend the next game, if possible, to ensure that the game suspension is in place.

4. A second suspension of the season will be possible grounds for removal from the league after review with the associations involved.

Game Management

1. Teams and Spectators will be on separate sidelines like a HS Football Stadium.

2. Please have teams ready for play at game time when there is a previous game on same field.

3. Home team as noted on the NMYFL schedule must provide the chain crew. Please have crew ready to go at least 10 minutes before game time and please make sure the crew are adults or teenagers.

4. The chain crew is a part of the referees' crew so must be impartial during the game. No coaching, cheering or comments are allowed by the chain crew at any time, or they may be removed.

5. Winning team reports the final score on the NMYFL website within 24 hours of completion.

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