

North Texas Football League

Bylaws and Rules

Revised: August 26, 2013
Board Approved: August 26, 2013



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I: NAME 1

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES 1

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS..... 1

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS 1

ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT..... 4

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS 4

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS..... 7

ARTICLE VIII: BYLAWS, DUES, AND RESOLUTIONS 8

APPENDIX: RULES OF THE GAME 11

RULE 1: PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS 13

 1) Age Requirements 13

 2) Local Association Boundaries 13

 3) Special Needs Players 13

RULE 2: COACHING QUALIFICATIONS 13

 1) Coaching Requirements 13

 2) Coaching Regulations..... 13

 3) Coaching Violations 14

RULE 3: DIVISIONS 14

 1) Compilation of Divisions..... 14

 2) Requests to Play in Other Divisions..... 15

RULE 4: PLAYER WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS 15

 1) Weight Restriction Guidelines 15

 2) Weigh-In Regulations..... 16

 3) Weight Restricted Player Violation..... 17

RULE 5: PLAYER CERTIFICATION 17

 1) Certification Process 17

 2) Certification Responsibility..... 17

 3) Certification Penalty..... 17

RULE 6: PLAYER ALLOCATION AND TEAMS 18

 1) Team Size 18

 2) Player Registration 18

 3) Local Association Waitlist Procedure 18

 4) Player Allocation and Draft - General Information..... 18

 5) Grass Drill Regulations..... 21

RULE 7: PRACTICES, SEASON, AND GAMES CANCELLATION..... 21

 1) Practices..... 21

 2) League Season 21

 3) Game Cancelations or Forfeiture 22

RULE 8: PLAYER PARTICIPATION 22

 1) Player Participation Guidelines..... 22

RULE 9: PLAY-OFF DETERMINATIONS..... 23

 1) Play-Off Game Schedule and Locations..... 23

2) Playoff Tie Breakers	23
RULE 10: GENERAL GAME RULES	24
1) General Game Guidelines	24
2) Game Duration	24
3) Game Winner Determination	24
4) Attempting Extra Points	26
5) Official Game Football.....	26
6) Coaches and Sideline Personnel.....	26
7) Trophies, Awards, and Sponsors	26
8) Officials.....	26
9) Game Ejections.....	27
RULE 11: 6th GRADE AND 5th GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS	27
1) Football sizes	27
2) Punting and Kicking Game.....	28
3) Covered Center	28
4) Neutral Zone	28
RULE 12: 4th GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS	28
1) Football sizes	28
2) Punting and Kicking Game.....	28
3) Covered Center	28
4) Neutral Zone	28
RULE 13: 3rd GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS	28
1) Football sizes	28
2) Punting and Kicking Game.....	28
3) Covered Center	29
4) Defensive Line and Blitzing.....	29
5) Neutral Zone	29
RULE 14: 2nd GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS	29
1) Football sizes	29
2) Kick-off and Beginning of the Game Ball Placement	29
3) Punting and Kicking Game.....	30
4) Coaching and Sideline Personnel.....	30
5) Covered Center	30
6) Quarterback Sneak.....	30
7) Defensive Line and Blitzing.....	30
8) Neutral Zone	31
RULE 15: FLAG FOOTBALL RULES	31
1) Flag Team Assignments	31
2) Players	31
3) Playing fields.....	32
4) Equipment	32
5) Game uniform.....	32
6) Prohibited equipment.....	33
7) Officials.....	33
8) Player Substitutions	33
9) Field Coaches.....	33

10) Penalty Measurements 33
11) Game Time 34
12) Kick-off and Beginning of the Game Ball Placement..... 34
13) De-flagging 34
14) Blocking..... 35
17) Ball Carrier..... 36
18) Center 36
19) Passing..... 37
20) Neutral Zone..... 37
21) Receiving..... 37
22) Dead ball 37
RULE 15: PROTEST PROCEDURE 38
1) Invalid Protests..... 38
2) To protest game in progress 38
3) Protest to any other Violations of NTFL BYLAWS or RULES 39

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ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the North Texas Football League, Incorporated.

Section 2: This shall be a nonprofit organization.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

Section 1: The objective of this organization shall be to promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, personal integrity, and team cooperation through participation and instruction in the game of football.

Section 2: The objectives of this organization shall be reached by providing supervised competition. The primary goal is to properly mold future citizens with encouragement toward good sportsmanship.

Section 3: Our objectives will be applied to everyone equally with no emphasis on ability. Anyone wanting to participate and meeting the eligibility requirements as set forth in **Article IX, section 2** will be allowed to participate.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1: This organization shall maintain officers, as the governing body deems necessary to conduct the business of this association.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS

Section 1: Membership of this organization shall consist of local associations dedicated to the same objectives as this organization. These organizations must meet certain membership requirements and have had their membership approved by two-thirds vote.

- A. Local associations will consist of one flag and/or tackle program(s) within their association's structure.
- B. Local associations must have a formal structure. This structure must include such things as bylaws, officers, etc., to be presented to the NTFL prior to their acceptance to this league.
- C. Local associations shall appoint or elect no more the two individuals to act as representatives on the board of the NTFL and shall have one vote per association. One of the local association representatives shall be the current seated association president.
- D. Local associations shall pay to NTFL the following:
 - Insurance payment based on number of participants in flag, tackle and cheer

- Officiating scheduling fee divided equally by participating associations
 - Fee for Super Bowl award medals divided equally by participating associations
 - Video Contract Fee, as entered into by the NTFL, to be paid on a per team basis for all teams associated with each Local Associations
- E. Local associations shall provide facilities and/or services.
- F. Local associations shall have boundaries from which participants are drawn, acceptable to the board of NTFL as outlined in **RULE 1 item 2**).
- G. Local associations, not participating in the NTFL insurance program, shall provide proof of general liability and board liability insurance to the NTFL before the beginning of the football season. All liability insurance coverage shall be equally to or exceed the NTFL insurance program.
- H. Local Associations shall perform criminal background checks all coaches.
- I. No bylaw of any local association will supersede these bylaws.
- J. NTFL will carry a bank balance of \$1,000
- K. NTFL will carry Board of Directors Insurance
- L. All participating associations agree to provide medical trainers at all games at their facilities paid for by that hosting association.
- M. Associations petitioning for membership after February 6, 2007, will be subject to the following membership restraints:
1. Probation period shall be for one year.
 2. After first year approval, the new association shall not have a vote.
 3. After second year approval, the new association will become a full voting member with one vote.
 4. Acceptance of petitioning association requires a \$1000.00 membership fee, to be used, as NTFL deems necessary.

5. Petitioning associations must submit to the NTFLL copies of their bylaws for review. These bylaws will be reviewed for compliance with the NTFLL bylaws, and any requested changes must be made prior to the beginning of the first regular season game. Failure to amend the bylaws is automatic dismissal from the NTFLL. Any request from the NTFLL board concerning the petitioning association's draft or any other function prior to the first regular season game must be put forth at the local level as a resolution until the bylaw can be changed. This resolution must be made within thirty days notice from the NTFLL board of requested bylaw changes. A copy of the minutes from the local association meeting must be submitted to the NTFLL as proof of passage of the resolution.
6. The petitioning association must also provide the complete list of officers of their association to the NTFLL board at the time of petitioning for acceptance.
7. NTFLL reserves the right to suspend or demand replacement of any petitioning association's NTFLL representative at any time and/or as a prerequisite for membership to the NTFLL. If such a demand is made, the petitioning association has fifteen days to act on the request or forfeit their \$1,000.00 membership fee.
8. Any additional information requested by the NTFLL board must be submitted in writing within fifteen days of the request.
9. NTFLL reserves the right to put any prerequisite on any petitioning association deemed necessary.
10. The NTFLL also reserves the right to waive (in part or in whole) these requirements put on petitioning associations if deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership, including allowing the petitioning association to become a full voting member once all prerequisites have been met.

Section 2: Each association will be limited to one vote, and the NTFLL president, in cases of a tie vote, will cast his/her vote to break the tie.

- A. A voting member may assign his/her vote by submitting a signed proxy to the secretary before the meeting in which the vote will be assigned.

Section 3: All associations (board of directors and members), whether charter members or probationary members, agree to hold harmless from responsibility for any and all actions, incidents or injuries, all associations, city parks and recreation departments, members, affiliated members, sponsors, participants, parents, executive board member, officials, and coaches.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT

Section 1: The Executive Board being equally divided among the local associations will be the bylaw and rules enforcement arm of the organization. All decisions of the Executive Board are final with no course for appeal.

Section 2: The Executive Board will be the board of directors for this organization. They will manage and conduct the business and affairs of the organization. They may exercise all such powers of the organization and do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute or by these bylaws otherwise regulated.

Section 3: The Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered in these bylaws.

Section 4: The organization shall keep correct and complete records of accounts, and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings.

Section 5: The Executive Board shall have an annual meeting in January to discuss the state of the organization and provide at this meeting a reasonable complete balance sheet and income statement.

Section 6: Any director or commissioner may resign by giving written notice to the president or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect immediately unless otherwise stated in the written notice. The acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 7: In the event of the resignation of an executive officer, the NTFL president shall appoint an executive board member to complete the remainder of the term of the resigned member.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1: Two executive board members, per **ARTICLE IV**, shall be elected or appointed by each local football association before the first meeting of the New Year. Each executive officer shall be elected to a term of one year. The position of President shall be rotated Faith, Northwest, Trophy Club/Roanoke, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Southlake in that order, beginning 2012.

- A. No elected officer, in a voting position, may hold any single office for more than four years, unless extended by the current NTFLL Board.
- B. Any Executive Board member or officer may be removed from his office for bylaw violations at any meeting. The removal must be made by a majority of the voting members present at said meeting.
- C. All members of the board are considered the Executive Board. The Elected Officers are those with written duties to perform.
- D. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be appointed each year by the incoming NTFLL President or they may be continued for that year but they may not be held by the same person for a period longer than 4 years total. These positions are non-voting positions on the NTFLL Board. The NTFLL board may vote to extend a term beyond 4 years.

Section 2: Duties of the Elected Officers

- A. The President shall:
 - 1. Preside over all meetings.
 - 2. Appoint committees and act as ex-officio.
 - 3. Break any tie vote.
 - 4. Authorize all checks to be written.
 - 5. Call meetings when needed.
 - 6. Perform other duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
 - 7. Prepare an agenda for each meeting.
 - 8. Shall veto any motion that he/she deems necessary. Veto may only be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members.
- B. The Vice-President shall:
 - 1. Preside over all meetings in the absence of the President.
 - 2. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
 - 3. Assume the duty of any officer who is unable to perform his/her duties until that office is filled.
 - 4. Perform all duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
 - 5. Perform the duties of the parliamentarian.
- C. The Treasurer shall:
 - 1. Sign all checks authorized by the President.
 - 2. Maintain accurate financial records for the league.
 - 3. Collect any dues, fines, etc., due NTFLL
 - 4. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
 - 5. Perform all duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
 - 6. Ensure required forms are filed annually.
- D. The Secretary shall:

1. Take and preserve the minutes of all meetings and record all votes taken.
2. Perform all duties assigned him/her by the President.
3. Handle all correspondence, as the board of directors shall prescribe.

E. Web Director shall:

- 1) Update all game results, game statistics, and any general NTFL information.

Section 3: Each member association shall have the following duties:

- A. Coordinate matters between their local association and the Executive Board.
- B. Enforce all rulings by the bylaws of this association.
- C. Resolve any disputes concerning game rules/bylaw rules at local association game sites.
- D. Perform such duties, as the board of directors shall prescribe.
- E. In the event a commissioner is not at his/her local association field, he/she may appoint an alternate.
- F. Must wear an identifying vest or hat approved by the NTFL board at all home games. The game official shall not be required to recognize anyone without this vest or hat.
- G. Shall strive to set an example for the local association that best exemplifies the goals and objectives of this association.
- H. Will know the rules of play as well as, if not better than, anyone in the local association.
- I. Shall base all decisions rendered on what effect his decision will have on the rest of the association. No decision can be given which shows favoritism of one association over another.
- J. Shall ensure strict adherence to the bylaws of NTFL at his/her local association.
- K. Shall be first and foremost a commissioner of NTFL and second a member of his/her local association.
- L. Shall be accountable to the directors of NTFL for all matters brought before the board concerning their local association.

M. Shall monitor the local association coaches to see that they are in compliance with the goals and objectives of NTFL in regard to the treatment of the children under their care. May remove anyone if he/she is not in compliance with these bylaws at any NTFL event.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- Section 1: A general meeting shall be held before the start of championship play.
- Section 2: Regular meetings of the board shall be held as directed by the president.
- Section 3: Special meeting of the NTFL board for any purpose, unless otherwise prescribed by statutes or by the bylaws, shall be presided over by the president and no less than one local association representative.
- Section 4: Forty-eight (48) hours written, printed, telephone or Internet notice stating the place, day and hour of any meetings (in case of special meeting, the purpose for which it is called) shall be delivered by or at the direction of the President, to each participating local association.
- Section 5: Two-thirds of the members entitled to vote must be present to constitute a quorum at all meetings. Proxies count towards this two-thirds count.
- Section 6: When a quorum is present at any meeting, the vote of the majority of members having voting power (including proxy) shall decide any questions brought before such meeting, unless the question is one that, by express provision, shall govern and control the decision of such question. The voting members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until the withdrawal of enough voting members to leave less than a quorum. Any member or members leaving a meeting to avoid a vote will be in violation of these bylaws (poor sportsmanship) and are subject to any action taken by the remaining members.
- Section 7: The board will sit from January 1 to December 31 and have a transitional meeting before December 31st.
- Section 8: The secretary shall notify the local associations of any fines or the removal of any individual.
- A. Any association failing to have representation at a meeting of which proper notification has been given shall be subject to action by the Executive Board.
 - B. Any executive officer failing to attend a meeting of which proper notification has been given shall be subject to action by the Executive Board, unless excused by the president.

- C. In the event of any association failing to be present at two meetings, the president may request that association to provide new executive board members. Further, any association failing to be present at the meetings may be put on probation and face possible expulsion from the NTFL.
- D. Any three executive board members may call a special executive board meeting at any time. The president will be required to set the time and place for all meetings. Members calling for the special meeting will be responsible for all expenses incurred for the purpose of this meeting.
- E. At times it may be necessary to have an email vote to resolve an NTFL related issue. If at anytime an association is uncomfortable with the email vote they have the right to request a conference call or meeting of the NTFL Board and that meeting shall occur before resolution is determined.

Section 9: The NTFL board of directors shall have a meeting prior to the beginning of play with ALL the officials. The bylaws and rules changes will be covered and our expectations will be put forth.

Section 10: The NTFL will host one informational meeting annually with both incoming coaches and officials. Head coach participation is mandatory. The NTFL board must approve any exception.

ARTICLE VIII: BYLAWS, DUES, AND RESOLUTIONS

Section 1: These **BYLAWS** and **RULES OF THE GAME** may be amended or repealed annually at a predetermined meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present or by proxy. Changes will be in effect immediately.

Section 2: These **BYLAWS** and **RULES OF THE GAME** shall have a full sunset review every three (3) years at a predetermined meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present or by proxy. Changes will be in effect immediately.

Section 3: If any part of these bylaws shall be held invalid or inoperative for any reason, the remaining parts, so far as possible and reasonable, shall be valid and operative.

Section 4: Any dues, assessments, fines, etc., levied by NTFL against any individual or member association shall be paid as follows:

- A. Dues shall be established by the NTFL board and are payable to NTFL on demand by whatever means deemed proper by the NTFL board.
- B. Any fines levied by NTFL shall be due and payable within two weeks (15 days).

Section 5: Resolutions

The Executive Board from time to time may approve any reasonable resolution put forth by any executive board member (including probationary members). This resolution will be in effect immediately. The resolution must be put forth for vote the following season for repeal or acceptance in the bylaws. No resolution may stay in effect for more than twelve months from acceptance date. No resolution can be put forth for vote after failing to be accepted into the bylaws from the previous season. No resolution may be put in place to supersede any bylaw without a two-thirds vote.

Section 6: If any officer, commissioner, coach shall be determined guilty of a violation of NTFL bylaws or of misconduct at any NTFL sanctioned event (game site, practice sessions, meeting, etc.) the local association must take definitive action related to the violation within one week of the infraction. Initial violation and action taken must be reported to the NTFL board.

Section 7: Occurrence of the infraction, i.e., flagged during game, ejected during game, removed during game, warned at any event, warned by any NTFL official, warned by any game official, may be reviewed by the NTFL Board of Directors. If these issues are to be taken up at the next scheduled meeting of the NTFL board, said violators will be notified. If the said violator fails to appear, he/she gives up the right to defend themselves before the NTFL board and agrees to accept any punishment imposed by the board. The findings of the NTFL board and any penalty imposed are final.

- A. A penalty or action imposed by the Executive Board of NTFL shall be final with no course for appeal.
- B. This includes all board members and local associations.
- C. Will also include all participants of NTFL games, as well as practices.

Section 8: The NTFL reserves the right to expel any official that is not in compliance with our bylaws and goals for the betterment of our children.

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APPENDIX: RULES OF THE GAME

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RULE 1: PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

1) Age Requirements

- a) Players shall not be less than 5 years of age or over 12 years of age on or before September 1 of the current year.
- b) Shall present to the local official at the time of registration a certified birth certificate (or a copy thereof) or current passport. Proof of birth date accepted by local school district may also be accepted.
- c) No child may participate if conditions of **RULE 1 item 1) b)** are not accomplished.
- d) Any exceptions must be approved by the NTFL Board.

2) Local Association Boundaries

- a) Players shall participate only with the local association whose boundaries are defined by the player's school district, residence, or attendance at a private school located within the associations' city limits. Executive Board must approve any exceptions.
- b) Any child participating or who is eligible to participate in a school affiliated football program shall be prohibited from participation in NTFL as a player.

3) Special Needs Players

- a) Any children with special/physical needs **MUST** be brought before the NTFL Board for approval to participate in the program.

RULE 2: COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

1) Coaching Requirements

- a) The NTFL board will require ALL Coaches to sign the NTFL Code of Ethics, with your local association. All head coaches must live in the member association boundaries or have NTFL Board approval.
- b) All coaches will agree to have a criminal background check performed by their association.
- c) The head coach and/or at least one alternate must attend the sports medicine/bylaw and officials meeting sponsored by the NTFL.

2) Coaching Regulations

- a) Each team must have one individual designated as a head coach.
- b) The head coach must carry team pictures and official team roster to all game sites, as well as a signed copy of the NTFL Coaches code of Ethics, for himself and his first assistant coach. The draft form is the official team roster.

- c) Penalty for not having picture and official roster at game site is \$25.00 to the local association for the first offense. The coach may be required to appear before the NTFL Executive Board for the second offense. The Executive Board will determine any penalty.
- d) It is the responsibility of the head coach for conduct unbecoming to the objectives and goals of NTFL for himself/herself, his/her assistant coaches, players and the players' parents.
- e) NTFL rules allow for only one head coach, one assistant coach, and five sideline passes to be on the field at home and away game sites. (Seven adults maximum...does not include chain gang if you are the home team) All seven (7) adults must wear the approved current season lanyard.
 - i) If the team exceeds the 7 Lanyard total the referee will give a warning first to remove the extra persons from the sideline. If the additional persons stay on the sideline the referee will impose a 15 yard penalty.

3) Coaching Violations

- a) The penalty for violation of **RULE 8** shall consist of: first offense, a \$100.00 fine, notification to the NTFL board, and possible one-game suspension; second offense, automatic one-game suspension and \$250.00 fine to the local association; third offense, possible suspension/banning from the league.
- b) The board of directors dictates suspension.
- c) "Banned" is out for life.
- d) If any association takes action against a coach, parent, or participant, then that association must notify the NTFL board in writing of its decision.

RULE 3: DIVISIONS

1) Compilation of Divisions

- a) The breakdown of league divisions shall be the following:

TABLE 1: Breakdown of League Divisions

Division	Type of Play	Player Age Limitation
Kindergarten and 1 st Grade	Flag	Players 5 years and 6 years on or before June 1 st , may participate in this division. Players may not be older than 7 years old by September 1.
2 nd Grade	Tackle	Players may not be older than 8 years old by September 1
3 rd Grade	Tackle	Players may not be older than 9 years old by September 1
4 th Grade	Tackle	Players may not be older than 10 years old by September 1
5 th Grade	Tackle	Players may not be older than 11 years old by September 1
6 th Grade	Tackle	Players may not be older than 12 years old by September 1

2) Requests to Play in Other Divisions

- a) Any deviations from **RULE 3 item 1)** as listed above, **MUST** go through the local Association and presented to the NTFL Board prior to July 31. Final approval is with the NTFL board. Any request(s) may be required to appear before the NTFL board.

- b) Any parent that wishes to move their child up to the next division, must present in writing to the Local Association prior to the draft. Once a player has completed two seasons in the higher division he may not return to his age appropriate division.

RULE 4: PLAYER WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

1) Weight Restriction Guidelines

- a) No minimum weight restriction shall be required for participation in any Division.

- b) Weight restrictions will be imposed in the following circumstances:
 - i) Weight-restricted players may not handle the ball. **No play can be designed for a stickered player to touch the ball.**

 - ii) Weight-restricted players may catch or advance the ball only on:
 - (1) Blocked Punts
 - (2) Fumbles
 - (3) Interceptions
 - (4) Stripping of the ball carrier
 - (5) Kick off and kick off return if kicked directly to the player, the weight restricted player must be lined up on the front line.

 - iii) A weight-restricted player may kick the ball off of the tee.

 - iv) Any weight restricted offensive/defensive player at the time of the snap of the ball must be stationary and within one yard of the line of scrimmage. The only positions allowed for a weight restricted player on offense are tight end, tackle, guard or center, if they are lined up at tight end they are not eligible to go out for a pass or advance the ball. A weight restricted guard, tackle, or tight end cannot be more than one (1) yard apart from each other on the line of scrimmage. The only positions allowed for a weight-restricted player on defense are nose tackle, unless prohibited by the **RULES OF PLAY**, the A, B, and C gaps and defensive end. The weight-restricted defensive end cannot be more than two (2) yards outside of the tackle box.
 - (1) Penalty for first offense is 5-yard delay of game and loss of down.
 - (2) Second penalty is 15 yards and loss of down.

- v) Offensive violations of **RULE 4 item 1)** will result in loss of down.

- vi) Weight restriction guidelines as mentioned above shall be applied to players as follows: (the weight is not to exceed that specified for each division ie. 80 is 80.0 on the digital scale, 80.1 equals weight restricted and so forth for each division).

Table 2: Weight Restriction per Division

DIVISION	WEIGHT RESTRICTION (lbs.)
Kindergarten and 1 st Grade	NONE
2 nd Grade	Player shall not to exceed 85
3 rd Grade	Player shall not to exceed 95
4 th Grade	Player shall not to exceed 105
5 th Grade	Player shall not to exceed 115
6 th Grade	Player shall not to exceed 125

2) Weigh-In Regulations

- a) All players from every local association shall have his/her weight certified by NTFL officials at the official weigh-in on an agreed upon date and time by all local association.
- b) The official weigh-ins shall be at a specified time and place designated by the NTFL board. Each association must make arrangements to have a minimum of two reps present at all times at the weigh-in. Failure to do so will be a mandatory fine of **\$500.00**. The president of the NTFL may grant an exemption to this requirement; however, the fine is mandatory if no exemption is given.
- c) Any player coming to the official NTFL weigh-in who does not have his/her helmet will have his/her weight listed on the official roster as an overweight player. The president or the Executive Board must approve any exceptions.
- d) Those players at official weigh-in shall have their weights certified by NTFL officials. No Executive Board member may be the official weigh-in supervisor for his/her local association.
- e) Failure to participate in the weigh-in process will result in a player being stickered. Any exception will require NTFL approval.
- f) Any player who misses the official NTFL weigh-in shall have 48 hours after the end of the official weigh-in to be weighed with agreed predetermined NTFL representation and the player's head coach. If the player is weighed after the 48-hour period five (5) pounds will be added per day. The cumulative additional weight will be added to the weight on the scale and the player will be designated appropriately.
 - i) Example Scenario: Official Weigh-in is Saturday August 23 and ends at 3PM. Player "A" (6th Grader) misses weigh-in and requests to be weighed on

Wednesday August 27 at 5PM. The scale weight for Player "A" shows 111lbs; the official weigh-in weight will be recorded as 126= (111lbs+15lbs) and the player will be designated as weight restricted.

3) Weight Restricted Player Violation

- a) The designed and intentional use of a player in a weight-restricted position whose weight exceeds that specified in **TABLE 2**, or of those whose weight does not exceed those in **TABLE 2** but did not have their weight certified at an official weigh-in, does constitute a violation of the bylaws of NTFL, and the head coach will be subject to action under **RULE 2 item 3) a)**. During the game the offending team will be assessed a fifteen-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. The coach will be suspended for one game.

- b) Any player whose weight is above the division weight restriction shall have his/her helmet labeled in a conspicuous manner by NTFL officials. Violation (for not wearing it) will cost the local association **\$25.00** for the first offense. The second offense may be removal of the player from the official roster.

RULE 5: PLAYER CERTIFICATION

1) Certification Process

- a) Each player is to be certified as to participation eligibility. Accepted forms of certification are:
 - Proof of grade placement
 - Birth Certificate and/or Passport
 - Proof of residency in the form of utility bill or tax statement
 - Proof of attendance in boundary school

- b) The official team roster shall serve as the document of certification, with team picture certified by NTFL officials. Team rosters will be made available upon request to each member association at any time.

2) Certification Responsibility

- a) The local association shall have the responsibility for certification of grade placement/school, player age, and residence.

- b) No player shall participate who has not been certified.

3) Certification Penalty

- a) The penalty for playing a player whose grade, age and/or residence was not certified, or has been falsified shall be suspension of the player from the NTFL. The head coach and local association may be brought before the Executive Board for consideration of bylaw violations under **RULE 1**. The local association may elect to do, as they deem necessary to any coach for violating any bylaw; however, their final judgment does not prevent NTFL from imposing further penalties.

- b) Member associations are subject to a \$1000 fine if a player is found to not meet the certification requirements as outlined in **RULE 5 item 1)**.

RULE 6: PLAYER ALLOCATION AND TEAMS

1) Team Size

- a) No team in any division shall consist of more than 25 players without the approval of the NTFL Board, provided an additional team can be made. Any exceptions to this article must be brought before the NTFL Executive Board.
- b) If any team falls to 16 players or below, by the fourth (4th) game of the season, that team may go to the waitlist to obtain additional players to make up to 18 players on the team. These additional players shall be limited to participation as weight restricted players only.

2) Player Registration

- a) All players shall register with their local association on or before the registration deadline. The Executive Board will approve this deadline.
- b) Each association shall have a registration period of no less than two (**2**) weeks before registration deadline.
- c) NTFL shall publish the registration deadline no less than eight (**8**) weeks before deadline.
- d) If a local association sees that its numbers are down or not enough to split by the registration deadline then that local association may register more players in that division.
- e) If a player plays up a division for two or more full seasons that player may never request to play back down.

3) Local Association Waitlist Procedure

- a) Waitlist closes at weigh-in, no additional players may be added to the waitlist after weigh in.
- b) If no waitlist players exist in the needed division after weigh in and a team falls below 16 players they may not go out and find players to add to their team.

4) Player Allocation and Draft - General Information

- a) Each association will adhere to the NTFL draft guidelines as follows. These draft guidelines were developed to provide consistency in drafting players for the NTFL leagues and to assist the draft auditors in the correct process and procedures to follow.

- b) A NTFL representative will audit each draft. The auditor will be responsible for conducting the draft. The local association will be responsible for filling out all draft paper work. At the end of the draft, the auditor will conduct a private 'exit' poll of each coach to ensure the draft was fair and equitable. If an impropriety exists, the auditor will redraft the players using a blind draw.
- c) The head coach will be allowed his son (or equivalent) and four coach agreement players per team to be agreed upon amongst coaches from their local associations at a meeting to be determined before the day of the draft. The coach will also have first right of refusal for players that played on the team the previous year, as his coach agree players. This meeting will be monitored by the local board members who will not be impacted by that draft. NTFL must be given 7 days notice of the date of the meeting so that Board members from other cities may attend. In the event an agreement for players cannot be resolved by a TBD date a formal NTFL coach agreement meeting will be held on a TBD date. The coaches will have 30 minutes to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached there will be a 15-minute break. Immediately after the break if there is still no agreement, each coach will get one assistant's son as a coach agreement and remainder of the players will be selected through the draft. An NTFL Official from another association will attend the formal coach agreement meeting.
- d) The coach agree players are the only players who may be defined to a specific team prior to the date of the draft per the Coach Agreement Meeting. Any other conversations about player placement are not official in nature and are not a part of the player placement procedure.
- e) If a parent requests in writing that his/her child not be coached by a particular coach that child must be placed into the draft, he is not eligible to be coach agreed by another coach.
- f) The order of the draft will be serpentine and determined by a numbered drawing by the coaches. The format will be (i.e. 1, 2, 3 reverses to 3, 2, 1).
- g) The draft table may have a maximum of two representatives per team. The head coach and assistant, the assistant coach's child must be one of the coach agreed players.
- h) Roster Players are players who are automatically placed on a team.
 - Example:*
 - a. *Head Coach's Son*
 - b. *Coach Agreement Players*
 - c. *Brothers of Other Roster Players*
 - d. Any exceptions to the above must have NTFL approval
- i) At the time of the Draft, each team must start with the same amount of players.

- j) "Hat" Picks.
 - i) "Hat" picks are not the same as the blind draw.
 - ii) "Hat" picks are the players who did not attend the grass drills and are not on the draft sheet. A coach may elect to go to the "Hat" at any time during the draft.

- k) Brother Picks:
 - i) When you pick a brother, the other brother is automatically placed on the team as the next pick.

 - ii) If a brother is a coach agreement player, the other brother must also be a coach agreement player. No exceptions.
 - Example:
 - You pick a brother (older age group) in round 3. The younger brother is automatically placed on the team. You pick a brother (twin) in the third round; the other brother is automatically your 4th round pick.

- l) Head coaches are prohibited from relinquishing their positions (stepping down) to add additional players/coaches to their roster.

- m) Each local association shall establish a specific time and place, within NTFLL guidelines, to conduct player allocation.

- n) No draft auditor may monitor his/her local association draft.

- o) When deemed necessary, the board shall appoint alternates for assigned auditors to serve in their absence.

- p) At the conclusion of each draft, the draft auditor shall cause to be prepared an official roster for each team.

- q) The official roster form shall be provided by NTFLL.

- r) The official roster form shall include:
 - i) Local association
 - ii) Team name
 - iii) Team division
 - iv) Head coach name
 - v) Player number
 - vi) Player name
 - vii) Player residence street address, zip code
 - viii) Player school of enrollment
 - ix) Players grade of enrollment
 - x) Player age

- xi) Birth date
 - xii) Weight R=over, red striped, N=under no red stripe, write the actual weight
 - xiii) Place for signature of head coach, draft auditor, and NTFL official at weigh in
- s) The draft auditor shall retain and submit the original copy of the roster to the NTFL secretary at a prescribed time and place.
- t) No player may quit one team and move to another team.
- 5) Grass Drill Regulations
- a) Grass Drills for all players may be conducted at the discretion of the association but no more than two weeks before the draft.
 - b) Any or all plays and team formations are prohibited during these grass drills.
 - c) Video taping will be allowed at grass drills by Local Association coaches only, and must be done from a stationary position. No coach may follow a targeted child around with a video camera.

RULE 7: PRACTICES, SEASON, AND GAMES CANCELLATION

- 1) Practices
- a) Following player allocation/draft and roster acceptance, the head coach may begin team practice on or after the NTFL established practice start date.
 - b) No practice shall be conducted on Sunday.
 - c) No practice shall be held before the official starting date set by NTFL.
 - d) No team shall practice or play more than four (4) days per week after the start of school or the season begins. (ie. 4 practices or 3 practices and 1 game). No practice shall exceed two (2) hours in length.
 - e) Flag teams shall practice or play no more than three (3) days per week. (ie. 3 practices or 2 practices and 1 game). No practice shall exceed two (2) hours in length.
- 2) League Season
- a) Starting date, number of games and scheduling will be determined by the NTFL Board.
 - b) The NTFL Board at an annual scheduling meeting shall establish the procedure for determining playoff participation.

3) Game Cancelations or Forfeiture

- a) If a game is cancelled due to, weather or extenuating circumstances, it will be made up on the Sunday immediately following the Saturday the game was originally scheduled. It is the sole responsibility of the home team association to schedule the make up game for that Sunday, if the home association fails to schedule the game for Sunday the home team will forfeit the game. If the game cannot be made up on that Sunday due to weather or extenuating circumstances, it will be counted as a tie with .5 being recorded towards the end of season record. The home team local association may utilize another NTFL local association fields as an alternate field location, if necessary, to complete the game(s).
- b) In the event of forfeiture by the visiting team, said team shall be liable to the home team for any officiating or field expenses incurred by the latter as a direct result of the forfeiture.
- c) If a game is stopped or cancelled due to weather or extenuating circumstances at half time or during the second half of a game and a team is leading by 18 or more points the game will be considered a complete game and the team with the lead will be awarded the win.

RULE 8: PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1) Player Participation Guidelines

- a) Every player shall participate as a player in every game in which he/she is in attendance.
- b) Each player will play a minimum of five (5) downs per half (10 plays minimum per game) in every game in which he/she is in attendance. The five (5) plays must occur during regulation play. Kick-off or return teams will count as part of this rule. Walk off punts do not count as a play.
- c) Only a member of the NTFL Board for any reason may grant authorization for restriction of a player's participation to a requesting head coach. The player's parent(s) must be notified prior to the beginning of play. No NTFL Board member that is also a head coach may grant him/herself a restriction. They must seek out another NTFL Board member to ask for the restriction.
- d) Each coach must only use the NTFL APPROVED STATISTIC SHEET. This sheet must record player name, game, date, and number of downs per player a minimum of five (5) per half and signature of statistician and head coach. NTFL officials will randomly check statistic sheets. At the end of the game, the coach's stat sheet is to be given to the ref or NTFL official to be added to the game outcome reports. In the event the head coach does not keep an active PLAYER PARTICIPATION STAT SHEET, he will be ejected for the current game and the next game and forfeit the game that the infraction occurred. Any exceptions will

be subject to NTFL approval. DO NOT PRE FILL OUT THIS SHEET BEFORE GAME TIME.

- e) An injured or ill player in attendance at a game shall be allowed in the bench area and shall not be required to play provided he/she is not in full pads.
- f) Only a member of the NTFL Board for any reason may grant authorization for restriction of a player's participation to a requesting head coach. The player's parent(s) must be notified prior to the beginning of play. No Executive Board member that is also a head coach may grant him/herself a restriction. They must seek out another Executive Board member to ask for the restriction.

RULE 9: PLAY-OFF DETERMINATIONS

1) Play-Off Game Schedule and Locations

- a) Play-off and Super Bowl venues will be determined by seeding. The team with the higher seed shall have home field advantage.
- b) Playoff locations and schedules shall be established by the Executive Board.

2) Playoff Tie Breakers

- a) The following is a clarification on how tiebreakers are handled in the playoff seeding:

- First - Raw Winning Percentage (RWP)

$$RWP = \frac{\text{Games Won}}{\text{Total Number of Games}}$$
- Second - Head to Head
- Third – Strength of Schedule (SOS)
- Fourth - Coin Flip

- b) Strength of Schedule will be determined as follows:
 Strength of Schedule is calculated by creating a cumulative total of the Raw Winning Percentage for all the opponents that a team has beaten during regular season games. No adjustments will be made for teams who play more or less games than another team.

For example:

Team A with a season record 4-3 beats the following teams:

Team Name	(Win-Loss Record)	RWP
Team B	(5-1)	0.833
Team D	(4-3)	0.571
Team F	(2-5)	0.286
Team M	(0-6)	0
Team A - Strength of Schedule		1.690

Team E with a season record 4-3 beats the following teams:

Team Name	(Win-Loss Record)	RWP
Team N	(5-2)	0.714
Team D	(4-3)	0.571
Team F	(2-5)	0.286
Team M	(0-6)	0
Team E - Strength of Schedule		1.571

Team A SOS=1.690>Team E SOS=1.571

- i) No scores are taken into account for Strength of Schedule; just wins and losses.

RULE 10: GENERAL GAME RULES

1) General Game Guidelines

- a) All games shall be played according to the current rules of the NCAA, with the Texas High School UIL exceptions and the exception of NCAA jersey numbering systems (i.e., no ineligible jersey numbers) unless otherwise stated in these **RULES OF THE GAME**. For any offensive tackle to be an eligible receiver the player must report as eligible to the official.

2) Game Duration

- a) Each game will consist of four (4) quarters with a 10-minute half time.
- b) Quarters shall be ten (10) minutes. Play clock will be managed per UIL Rules.
- c) Time of quarters may, by mutual consent of opposing head coaches, be shortened at any time during the game.
- d) Game forfeit time (15 minutes allowance approved).

3) Game Winner Determination

- a) The team scoring the most points in regulation time shall be judged the winner.
- b) Scoring values:
 - i) Touchdown = 6 points
 - ii) Safety = 2 points
 - iii) Try Points after touchdown
 - (1) Passing/Running = 1 point from the three (3) yard line
 - (2) Kicking = 1 point from the three (3) yard line w/ NO DEFENSIVE RUSH
 - (a) The kicker must kick the ball within three (3) seconds after the snap of the ball.

- (b) No Fake attempt may be attempted.
 - (3) Kicking = 2 point from the three (3) yard line w/ FULL DEFENSIVE RUSH
 - (4) Passing/Running = 2 points from the seven (7) yard line
 - (5) Defensive Advancement is allowed on the passing/running/kick (FULL DEFENSIVE RUSH–Only) attempt, if successful, 2 points will be awarded.
 - iv) Field goals = 3 points w/ FULL DEFENSIVE RUSH (ONLY)
 - v) Forfeit (offended team wins by) 1 point to 0 points
- c) 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 division with the exception of flag division. There are no ties in NTFL football games unless caused by weather and or extenuating circumstances see **RULE 7 item 3**).
 - ii) NTFL has adopted the NCAA rules for overtime. The team with possession at the end of regulation will maintain possession and will not change direction. There will be a one-minute break, and 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 the entire overtime period). NCAA overtime rules with the following exception will be used if at the end of regulation play the score is tied.
 - (1) The starting position for the first overtime period will be at the 25-yard line.
 - (2) Each subsequent overtime period the starting position of the ball will be moved 10 yards closer to the goal line until reaching the 5 yard line. (i.e. 25,15,5).
 - (3) In the event no team has scored by the third overtime (ball on the 5 yard line), the ball shall continue to be placed on the 5-yard line for all subsequent overtime periods.
- d) If at any time during regulation play a team is leading another by thirty (30) points or more, in the second half, 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) Trailing team will receive the ball at their own 40-yard line when the leading team scores as long as the deficit is more than 30 points.
 - iv) If the deficit falls to less than thirty (30) points due to points scored by the trailing team, the clock shall return to a regular running clock with stops and starts. The clock can return to a running clock at anytime the score has a team leading by thirty-(30) points or more.
- e) All other rules still apply if a team is leading another by thirty (30) points or more; including starting the second half based on the original coin toss designation.

4) Attempting Extra Points

- a) All players, including weight-restricted players, are eligible to kick but the defense cannot cover the center.

5) Official Game Football

- a) All game balls must be a good grade of leather Wilson Football, as approved by the Board of Directors of NTFLL. The Home Team will provide the leather game ball. See RULE per division for football size.

6) Coaches and Sideline Personnel

- a) Coaches will be allowed on the field to help an injured player.
- b) Bench area will be restricted to players and coaches with lanyards only.
- c) Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties against any coach will be accompanied with a 15-yard penalty. The official **MUST** eject the coach following his second infraction. This is an ejection only. The team will not be assessed a 15-yard penalty for the second infraction.
- d) Head Coaches are responsible for non-lanyard persons on their sidelines. You will receive a warning to remove the non-lanyard persons; if there is a second occurrence you will be given a 15-yard penalty.

7) Trophies, Awards, and Sponsors

- a) Sponsor name may appear on player's uniform with NTFLL approval.
- b) Sponsors should be those organizations, firms or companies whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of youth. Specifically no firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to sponsor the program or be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.
- c) The Board of Directors shall authorize any trophies and or awards presented under the auspices of NTFLL.
- d) The head coach of the team receiving recognition may keep any NTFLL award represented by a singular item (i.e., team trophy)
- e) Reward stickers may be given out but may not be given for big hits, skull and crossbones sticker is not allowed.
- f) Participants in championship play-offs may receive awards from NTFLL.

8) Officials

- a) Excessive running of the clock by the officials will be cause for refusal of game payment. The offending official must be warned prior to refusal of payment.

- b) Officials are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Any official that is considered as goading a coach will be removed at once (to be determined by the field commissioner).
- c) Any coach, parent or any other person or persons confronting an official in any disrespectful manner at any time will be subject to the full penalty extent and maximum penalty that can be imposed by the NTFL board of directors.

9) Game Ejections

- a) Game reports will include any ejections. They must include the half in which the ejection occurred. A written report is to be done by the Officials.
- b) If a child or coach receives two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a game, that child or coach, is to be ejected for the remainder of that game and the next game.
 - i) For a second ejection offense during the season, the child or coach, is ejected from the remainder of that game and for the next two games.
 - ii) For the third ejection offense during the season, the child or coach, is immediately ejected from the current game and expelled for the remainder of the season and any subsequent playoff games.
 - iii) If an ejection occurs and the penalties cannot be served in the current season because of a season ending game or playoff game, the penalties will carry over to the next season and be served until all ejection provisions are satisfied.
 - iv) If an ejection occurs for the coach, and the coach is not returning for a subsequent season and therefore cannot serve the penalties provided herein, the NTFL Board may take action against that coach and his team up to and including forfeiture of the game where the ejection occurred.
 - v) If a child throws a punch, this action is grounds for immediate ejection by the official and counts toward the ejection actions in the above paragraphs.
 - vi) An ejected player may be on the sideline of the game they are ejected from but they must be in shorts and no pads and he/she may not participate in any aspect of the game, this includes team captain or participate in the coin flip or water boy.

**RULE 11: 6th GRADE AND 5th GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE
EXCEPTIONS**

1) Football sizes

- a) 5th Grade and 6th Grade divisions will use TDJ (Wilson).

- 2) Punting and Kicking Game
 - a) Defensive rush on the punter will be based on the middle school guidelines established by UIL but the defense cannot cover the center.
 - b) Defensive rush on the Kicker (Field Goals or Extra Points) will be based on the middle school guidelines established by UIL but the defense cannot cover the center.
- 3) Covered Center
 - a) Defensive linemen may line-up over center on the line of scrimmage.
- 4) Neutral Zone
 - a) Offensive lines may line up on the line of scrimmage per NCAA regulations.

RULE 12: 4th GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS

- 1) Football sizes
 - a) This division will use K2 (Wilson).
- 2) Punting and Kicking Game
 - a) A punt is a twenty (20) yard walk off punt and ten (10) seconds is run off the clock. The ball will move an entire twenty (20) yards at any location on the field. If you punt from inside the twenty (20) it will be a touch back and ten (10) seconds will be run off the clock.
 - b) Defensive rush on the Kicker (Field Goals or Extra Points) will be based on the middle school guidelines established by UIL but the defense cannot cover the center.
- 3) Covered Center
 - b) Defensive linemen may line-up over center on the line of scrimmage.
- 4) Neutral Zone
 - a) Offensive lines may line up on the line of scrimmage per NCAA regulations.

RULE 13: 3rd GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS

- 1) Football sizes
 - a) This division will use K2 (Wilson).
- 2) Punting and Kicking Game
 - a) A punt is a twenty (20) yard walk off punt and ten (10) seconds is run off the clock. The ball will move an entire twenty (20) yards at any location on the field. If you punt from inside the twenty (20) it will be a touch back and ten (10) seconds will be run off the clock.

b) Defensive rush on the Kicker (Field Goals or Extra Points) will be based on the middle school guidelines established by UIL but the defense cannot cover the center.

3) Covered Center

a) It is illegal to lineup a defensive player on the line of scrimmage over the center.

b) Defensive linemen are allowed to line-up in the "A" Gap, between the center and guard.

c) Penalty for Violation of the above RULE will be administered as follows:

i) Ten (10) yards and an automatic first down.

4) Defensive Line and Blitzing

a) Blitzing linebackers, cornerbacks/safeties or overloading any single gap (A, B, or C) is not allowed. **There will be no timed blitzing allowed.** All players must be in a set position at the snap of the ball, with the exception of covering offensive players that are shifting, or going in motion. The defensive players that are not on the line, must move parallel with the offensive players, and not up to the line.

b) Any defensive player playing the interior defensive line, (A and B gaps) must be in a 3 or 4 point stance prior to the snap of the ball.

c) Penalty for Violation of the above RULE will be administered as follows:

i) Ten (10) yards and an automatic first down.

5) Neutral Zone

a) Offensive lines may line up on the line of scrimmage per NCAA regulations.

RULE 14: 2nd GRADE DIVISION GAME RULE EXCEPTIONS

1) Football sizes

a) This division will use K2 (Wilson).

2) Kick-off and Beginning of the Game Ball Placement

a) Each half will start with the ball placed forty (40) yards from the goal line of the receiving team and for each kickoff.

b) The referee will call the team captains together for a toss of a coin to decide a choice of receiving. The winning captain has the choice.

c) The losing captain has the same choice at the beginning of the second half.

d) In the event of a Safety the Team awarded the 2-points will start on offense with the ball placed forty (40) yards from the Team's goal line.

3) Punting and Kicking Game

- a) A punt is a twenty (20) yard walk off punt and ten (10) seconds is run off the clock. The ball will move an entire twenty (20) yards at any location on the field. If you punt from inside the twenty (20) it will be a touch back and ten (10) seconds will be run off the clock.
- b) Defensive rush on the Kicker (Field Goals or Extra Points) will be based on the middle school guidelines established by UIL but the defense cannot cover the center.

4) Coaching and Sideline Personnel

- a) One coach can be on the field (offensive or defensive) but are to be ten (10) yards from the deepest player prior to the snap. Once the offense is lined up in their position, coaches are not to direct/talk to players.
- b) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 14 item 3) a)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) First offense - warning
 - ii) Second offense - 5-yard illegal procedure penalty
 - iii) Third offense - new coach on field for the remainder of that game.

5) Covered Center

- a) It is illegal to lineup a defensive player on the line of scrimmage over the center.
- b) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 14 item 5) a)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) Ten (10) yards and an automatic first down.

6) Quarterback Sneak

- a) Quarterbacks receiving the football from under the center are prohibited from running the ball ("QB Sneak") behind center or through the "A" gaps.
- b) Quarterback receiving the ball from center in the shotgun position at least 2 yards behind the center are eligible to run the ball ("QB Sneak") behind the center or "A" gap.
- c) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 14 item 5) a) and b)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) First Offense - Five (5) yards from the original line of scrimmage.
 - ii) Second Offense – Five (5) yard penalty from the line of scrimmage and a loss of down.

7) Defensive Line and Blitzing

- a) Blitzing linebackers, cornerbacks/safeties or overloading any single gap is not allowed. There will be no timed blitzing allowed. All players must be in a set position at the snap of the ball, with the exception of covering offensive players

that are shifting, or going in motion. The defensive players that are not on the line, must move parallel with the offensive players, and not up to the line.

- b) All players (except lineman and cornerbacks) must be a minimum of 2 yards off the line of scrimmage in a set position. See diagram below.
- c) Any defensive player playing the interior defensive line (between the traditional tackle boxes) must be in a 3 or 4 point stance prior to the snap of the ball.
- d) **A nose guard will not be allowed over the center or in the "A" gaps at anytime prior to the snap of the football.** Any player over the center or "A" gaps must be two (2) yards off the line of scrimmage. Lining up in other gaps is acceptable. A player can rush any/all gaps after the snap of the ball. See Figure 1.

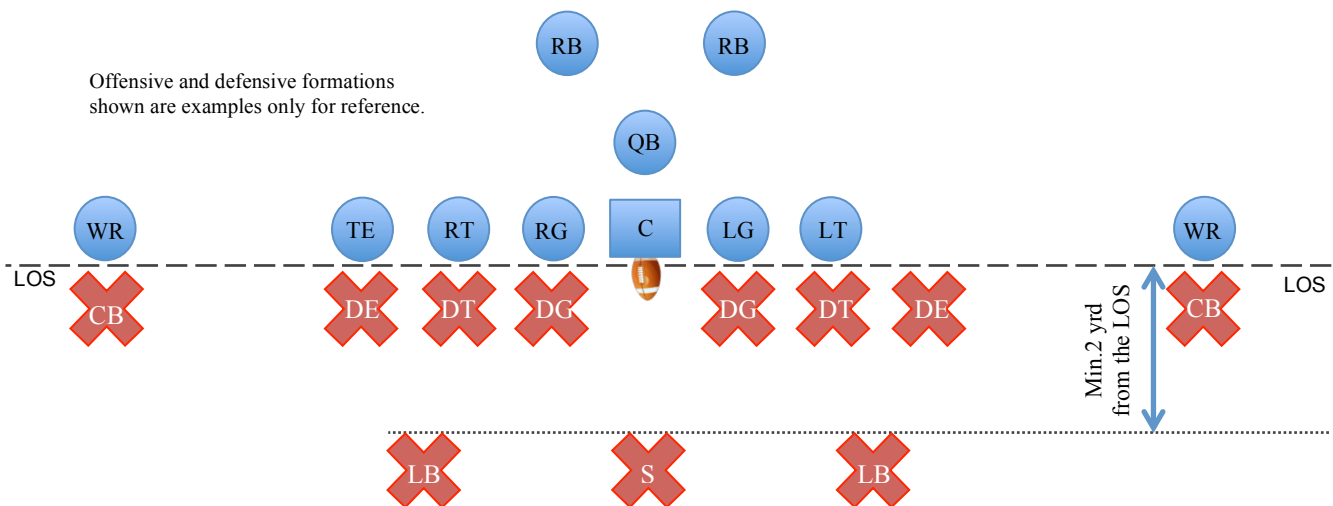


Figure 1-Distance off LOS Over Center and "A" Gap

- a) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 14 item 5) a-c)** will be administered as follows:
 - ii) First Offense - five (5) yards
 - iii) Second Offense – Fifteen (15) yard unsportsmanlike against the Head Coach

8) Neutral Zone

- a) Offensive lines may line up on the line of scrimmage per NCAA regulations.

RULE 15: FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

1) Flag Team Assignments

- a) The Flag team assignments will be monitored by the NTFL to ensure the teams are even by age group.

2) Players

- a) A game may be played between two teams consisting of a maximum of eight (8) players each team.

- b) Only players appearing on the official NTFL team rosters are allowed to play.
- c) The offensive team may have no more than three (3) players in the backfield.
- d) A team will have 30 seconds to put the ball in play after the ready signal.
- e) One coach from each team shall be on the field at all times for the purpose of lining up his/her team. No coaching is allowed after team has been set for play.

3) Playing fields

- a) The field shall be a normal football field reduced to 80 yards.
 - i) This field measures eighty (80) yards in length with two end zones of ten yards each. It is 160 feet wide.
 - ii) Goal posts are unnecessary as points after conversions are made only by passing or running and there are no field goals kicked.

4) Equipment

- a) The flags will be attached to the pants with NTFL approved “hook and loop” fastener (i.e. Velcro™ style product) that is sewn on the side seam of the waistband.
- b) Flags will be a minimum 10 inches long and minimum 2 inches wide. Teams wearing dark colored (Blue or Black) pants must use yellow flags and teams wearing light colored (white or silver) pants must use red flags.
- c) The securing of flags to the body or waist other than provided by **RULE 15 item 4) a)** is illegal.
- d) Jerseys cannot be worn over flags.
- e) Jerseys must be tucked in at all times.
- f) If a player’s flag is inadvertently lost, he/she is ineligible to handle the ball.
- g) Mouth pieces are mandatory for all participants.

5) Game uniform

- a) All team members must wear the same color jersey.
- b) All jerseys will be numbered, front and back, for proper identification by officials and statisticians.
- c) Only football or baseball type pants may be worn.

- d) Jerseys will be tucked in at all times.
 - e) Molded rubber cleats are required.
- 6) Prohibited equipment
- a) All hard surface padding such as shoulder pads, hip pads, and hard helmets are prohibited.
 - b) Hard metal or any other hard substance on a player's clothing or person.
 - c) Anything that conceals the flags.
 - d) Sticky substances such as grease or glue on a player's clothing, body, or equipment.
 - e) Any equipment, in the opinion of the referee that will endanger or confuse players.
 - f) **FLAG BELTS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- 7) Officials
- a) There will be two (2) referees.
 - b) There shall be at least three (3) referees for a sanctioned NTFL play-off/championship.
- 8) Player Substitutions
- a) The free substitution rule is always in effect and a player may enter the game anytime the ball is dead.
- 9) Field Coaches
- a) Only one coach for each team will be permitted on the field to direct the Offense and/or Defense.
 - b) Coaches to be ten (10) yards from the deepest player prior to the snap. Once the offense is lined up in their position, coaches are not to direct, motion, or talk to players until the play is whistled dead by the officials.
 - c) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 15 item 9) a) and b)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) First offense - warning
 - ii) Second offense - 5-yard illegal procedure penalty
 - iii) Third offense - new coach on field for the remainder of that game.
- 10) Penalty Measurements
- a) All penalties will be five (5) yards.

11)Game Time

- a) Four 15-minute quarters with running clock. Clock will stop only for time-outs, injuries or referee discretion.
- b) The clock will be kept to a regulation clock during the last two (2) minutes of a half.
- c) Three (3) time-outs per half.
- d) Ten (10) minutes between halves.
- e) Flag teams will not play overtime and may have tie game outcomes. Ties will be assessed at .5 points. Wins will receive 1 point and losses 0 points.

12)Kick-off and Beginning of the Game Ball Placement

- a) Each half will start with the ball placed twenty (20) yards from the goal line of the receiving team and for each kickoff.
- b) The referee will call the team captains together for a toss of a coin to decide a choice of receiving. The winning captain has the choice.
- c) The losing captain has the same choice at the beginning of the second half.
- d) In the event of a Safety the Team awarded the 2-points will start on offense with the ball placed twenty (20) yards from the Team's goal line.

13)De-flagging

- a) There shall be no tackling of the ball carrier or passer.
- b) The player carrying or having possession of the ball is down when his/her flag is removed from his/her waist (de-flagging) by another player. The defensive player shall hold the flag above his/her head and stand still.
- c) The defensive player cannot hold or push the ball carrier to remove his/her flag. An accidental touch of the body or shoulder while reaching for the flag shall not be considered a violation; however, touching of the head or face shall be considered a violation.
- d) A defensive player may not run over, push, or pull a blocker away from him/her. He/she may push him sideways if he gets past him/her, but he/she cannot push the blocker down.
- e) A defensive player must go for the passer's flag. He/she cannot touch the passer's arm.

- f) If a flag falls off a player inadvertently the player is considered down at that location.

14) Blocking

- a) A blocker must be on his/her feet at all times while blocking. All linemen, except the center, must not assume the three-point stance or otherwise sprint from a coiled or crouching start. Instead, they must simply stand at the line of scrimmage and await the snap. The center, though crouching, if he/she is to block, must first stand straight up.
- b) Cross body, cut, and roll blocking are not permitted.
- c) An offensive player will be restricted in the use of his/her hands to the defensive player's body and shoulders.
- d) A defensive player cannot block or push a ball carrier out-of-bounds.
- e) Butting, elbowing or knee blocking is not permitted.
- f) There will be no two-on-one blocking for the ball carrier beyond the line of scrimmage.
- g) Blocking a player from behind is not permitted (clipping).
- h) There will be no interlock blocking.
- i) A defensive player will be restricted in the use of his/her hands to the blocker's body and shoulders.
- j) There shall be no offensive downfield contact block beyond three (3) yards either side of the line of scrimmage (LOS). If a downfield block occurs, the ball will be placed at that spot or at the spot the ball carrier is at the time of the infraction, whichever is

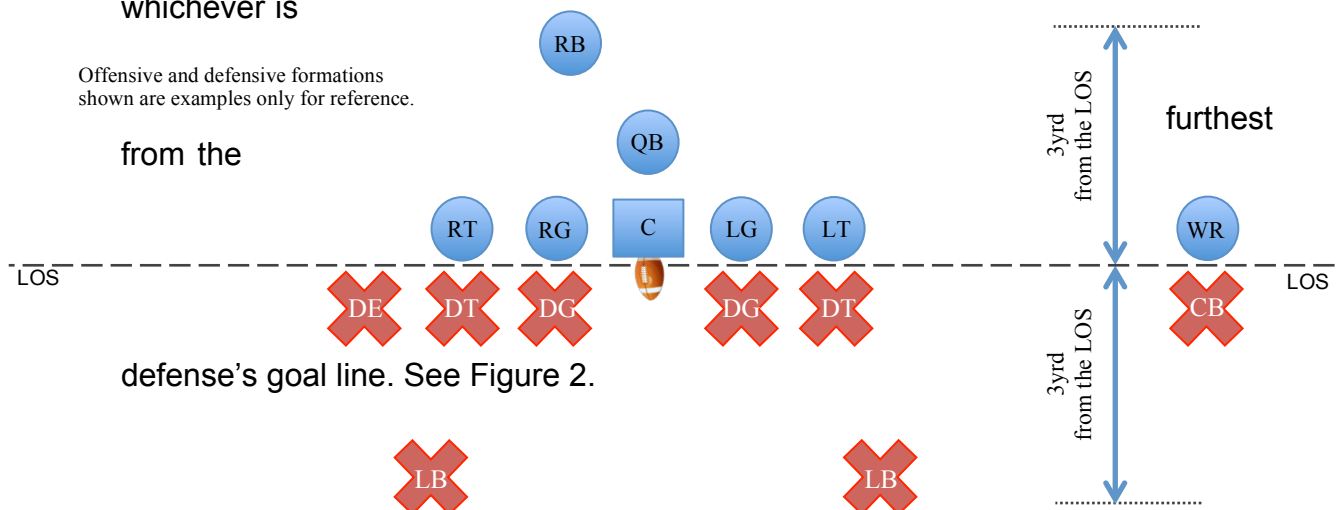


Figure 2-Down field or Back Field Blocking Area

15) Covered Center

- a) It is illegal to lineup a defensive player on the line of scrimmage over the center.
- b) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 15 item 15) a)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) Ten (10) yards and an automatic first down.

16) Quarterback Sneak

- a) Quarterbacks receiving the football from under the center are prohibited from running the ball (“QB Sneak”) behind center or through the “A” gaps.
- b) Quarterback receiving the ball from center in the shotgun position at least 2 yards behind the center are eligible to run the ball (“QB Sneak”) behind the center or “A” gap.
- c) Penalty for Violation of the above **RULE 15 item 16) a) and b)** will be administered as follows:
 - i) First Offense - Five (5) yards from the original line of scrimmage.
 - ii) Second Offense – Five (5) yard penalty from the line of scrimmage and a loss of down.

17) Ball Carrier

- a) The ball carrier cannot use his/her hands or arms to protect his flags. The defensive player must have the opportunity to remove the ball carrier’s flags.
- b) The ball carrier cannot lower his/her head to drive or run into a defensive player.
- c) Stiff-arming by the ball carrier is illegal.
- d) Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull.
- e) He/she may run in any direction until the ball is declared dead.
- f) For the center to be eligible to carry the ball, he must transfer possession of the ball to a player in the backfield first.

18) Center

- a) The center must snap the ball between his/her legs.
- b) He/she must have both feet on the scrimmage line with no part of his/her body beyond the forward point of the ball.
- c) He/she may adjust the long part of the ball at right angles to the scrimmage line, one time only.

19) Passing

- a) All backfield players are eligible passers.
- b) Passing will be attempted from behind the line of scrimmage only.
- c) A lateral pass is a pass thrown parallel to the line of scrimmage or back toward the passer's own goal line. A lateral pass is not considered a forward pass.
- d) A forward pass is a pass thrown from behind the line of scrimmage toward the defensive team's goal line.

20) Neutral Zone

- a) The defense must line up a yard off of the ball. See Figure 3.

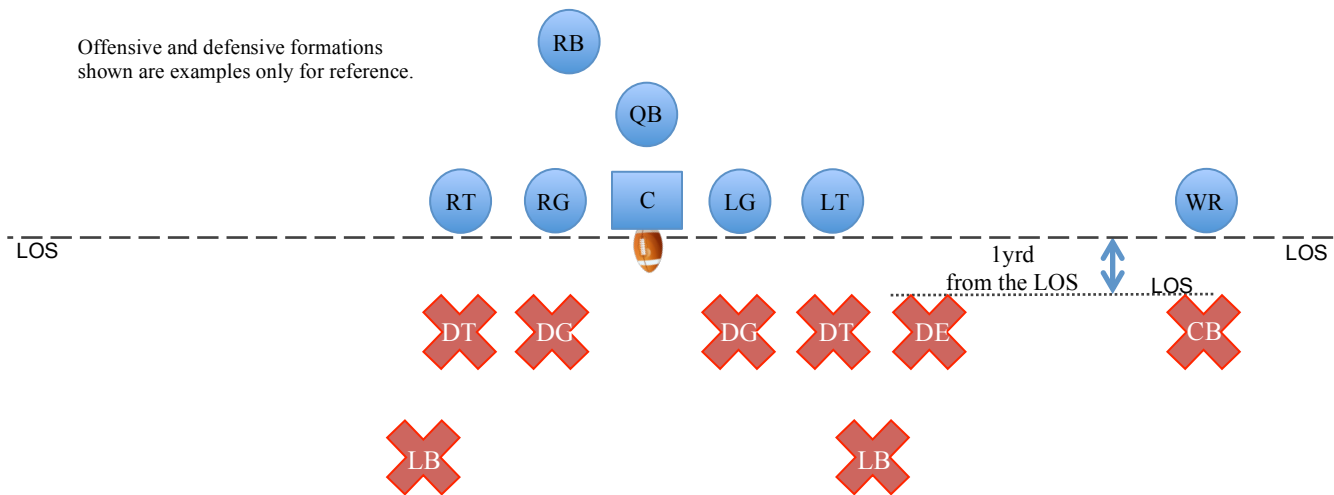


Figure 3-Neutral Zone for Flag Division

21) Receiving

- a) Only backs and ends are eligible to receive forward passes.
- b) Two or more receivers may touch a ball in succession resulting in a completed pass.
- c) If an offensive and defensive player catches a pass simultaneously, the ball is declared dead at the spot of the catch and the passing team is awarded possession.
- d) An offensive player cannot be out-of-bounds and return in-bounds to catch a pass. This will be ruled an incomplete pass.

22) Dead ball

- a) All balls touching the ground are immediately dead. (For example, the ball is declared dead at the following times):
 - i) When the ball carrier touches the ground with his/her body, other than hands or feet.
 - ii) When the ball carrier's flag has been pulled.

- iii) If a pass receiver or ball carrier has a missing flag (ball is dead at the spot).
- iv) Following a touchdown, safety or touchback.
- v) When the ball goes out-of-bounds for any reason.
- vi) If the center's snap hits the ground before reaching a backfield player.
- vii) When the ball hits the ground as a result of a fumble or muffed ball. There are no fumble recoveries in NTFL Flag, and no stripping of the ball is allowed.
- viii) If a lateral pass touches the ground, ball is declared dead at that point. If a lateral pass goes out-of bounds, the ball is ruled dead at the point it crosses the boundary line.
- ix) If a forward pass strikes the ground or is caught at the same time by an opposing player(s).

RULE 15: PROTEST PROCEDURE

1) Invalid Protests

- a) No protest will be allowed concerning officials (includes all judgment calls and quality of officials). These items fall under complaint category and should be reported to the local region commissioner.

2) To protest game in progress

- a) Head coach will call a time-out (will not count as a charged time-out for game).
- b) Head coach will inform the official that he wants to protest game. Immediately following the notification to the official, the protest fee must be paid to the NTFL Field Commissioner.
- c) Any protest must be accompanied by a NON-REFUNDABLE protest fee. Protest fee shall be \$150.00 payable at the time of notification.
- d) Complete game with no other interruptions concerning the protest.
- e) Following the game the Head coach will meet with the NTFL Field Commissioner in private and explain details of protest to NTFL Field Commissioner which will be documented in the NTFL Field Book at the scorers table at the field. (No spectators, officials, or assistants present).
- f) Immediately after game, if possible, but no later than 72 hours, provide the protest to writing and submit to your local association NTFL representative for delivery to NTFL Executive Board.

- g) The local associations NTFL representative, upon receiving the protest, must notify all parties concerned before submitting to the NTFL Executive Board.
 - h) All decisions of the Executive Board concerning all protests, either game rules or rule violations of NTFL bylaws, are final with no course for appeal.
 - i) **No protest will be acted on if all the above items or steps are not adhered to, and protest will be disregarded.**
- 3) Protest to any other Violations of NTFL BYLAWS or RULES
- a) To protest any other violations of NTFL bylaws or rules, start with above item 2) c) and complete above items 2) g) above and proceed through item 2) h).