



## **N.Y.S. OFFICIAL TACKLE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT 8 MAN RULES**

(IN ADDITION TO THE STANDARD NYS-SPECIFIC 8 MAN TACKLE FOOTBALL RULES: AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.NYSONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.NYSONLINE.ORG))

Unless otherwise amended below, the current year's NFHS (National Federation of State High School Association) Laws of the Game shall apply. NFHS Laws of the Game and other resources are available at [www.nfhs.com](http://www.nfhs.com).

**The site director at each field has ultimate authority and represents NYS in all facets of the tournament.**

1. Each player will be weighed in prior to their first game of the tournament. Once the child is weighed in under the required guidelines, he or she is eligible for the entire tournament. Weigh-ins will begin being conducted starting 30 minutes before the team's first scheduled game. Each child is only allowed to weigh-in one time. If a child is over the allotted limit, then the child is ineligible for that day's games. The child may reweigh on the second day of the tournament to try and make. If the player does not make weight on the second day, then that player is ineligible for the remainder of the tournament. Coaches are encouraged to keep a book containing copies of birth records for each player to bring to all games. Since NYS has certified each player at the start of the season, these documents will not be viewed unless a spot check is needed. Each player must have a NYS ID card to be eligible to play. NYS ID's can be obtained from your local NYS office and must be purchased.
2. In the presence of each team's coaches, NYS staff will conduct the coin toss fifteen minutes prior to kickoff. The team listed first on the schedule is considered the visiting team and will call heads or tails. The home team will occupy the north or east sideline (whichever side the press box is on). The winner of the coin toss will choose whether to receive or defer to the second half. The teams will switch direction at halftime and the team that kicked off to start the game will then receive the kickoff to begin the second half. The visiting team will be responsible for providing volunteers to run the down marker and first down chains for the entire game.
3. The playing field will be forty yards wide and eighty yards long.
4. The game will consist of two (2) twenty-five minute halves, with a three to five minute halftime or drop dead time limit of fifty-five minutes. Each team is allowed one, thirty second timeout per half. The timeout can carry over to the second half. Timeouts do not stop the fifty-five minute drop dead time limit. See rule 20 in case of overtime.

5. The NYS uniform or uniform worn during the regular season with league approval, approved helmet, pads and mouthpiece are required to be worn in order to participate. No jewelry, open toed shoes, colored visors (only clear visors are acceptable) or metal cleats may be worn. Custom Uniforms are not allowed to have advertising of any kind and must display the letters "NYS" on the front of the jersey or the official NYS Patch.

**FOR PEEWEE AND MIDGET DIVISIONS:** The game ball must be an Antioch PeeWee Size Football. Home teams must provide the game ball.

**FOR THE MINOR DIVISION:** The game ball must be an Antioch Junior Size Football. Home teams must provide the game ball.

6. The methods of scoring and their value:
- |             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Touchdown   | 6 points                       |
| Extra Point | 1 point (from the 5 yd line)   |
| Extra Point | 2 points (from the 10 yd line) |
| Safety      | 2 points                       |
7. The game will be played eight on eight. Each team will have a maximum of twenty players allowed on their roster (see tournament application for roster rules). No team may carry over the maximum allotment of children. During tournament play there is no requirement in regards to the amount of playing time a player must receive. Please keep in mind that your team may have to play more than one game during a day, so coaches should make sure to keep players refreshed by monitoring playing time.
8. Two un-sportsmanlike conduct violations by any player, coach, or spectator will result in an immediate dismissal of the violator, and a fifteen-yard penalty. The referee and NYS site director have the authority to dismiss a violator after one unsportsmanlike conduct violation based on severity. The game will resume once the violator has left the premises. Any player, coach, or parent ejected from a game will face an automatic one game suspension and may receive extra penalties up to being dismissed from the tournament entirely.
9. Substitution may occur between downs and any number of players may be substituted. Players must enter and exit the field promptly.
10. **FOR PEEWEE AND MIDGET DIVISIONS ONLY:** There are no fumbles in the PeeWee and Midget divisions; ball is dead on contact with the field. Interceptions are live and can be advanced. If the ball is stripped, it is considered a fumble and is dead at the point of the strip and the offense will retain possession. On-side kicks are not allowed. Should the kicking team recover the ball prior to the receiving team touching the ball, the receiving team will be awarded the ball at the spot in which it was first touched by the kicking team. If the ball is muffed by the receiving team, the ball will be considered dead at the spot of the muff.

**FOR THE MINOR DIVISION ONLY:** Fumbles, Interceptions, and On-side kicks are legal and live.

11. **FOR PEEWEE AND MIDGET DIVISIONS ONLY:** Each team may have one coach on the field during play. Before the snap, both offensive and defensive coaches must be a minimum of twenty yards off the line of scrimmage towards center of field. The defensive coach on the field must step out of the back of the end-zone prior to a play in the red-zone (inside the 20 yard line). The coach may not interfere with the play of the game or they will receive a fifteen-yard penalty. Once the quarterback begins his cadence, both coaches must be silent.
12. The offense must have five players (no more or no less) lined up on the line of scrimmage for every play. Three offensive linemen are ineligible receivers.
13. **FOR PEEWEE AND MIDGET DIVISIONS ONLY:** The defense must have a minimum of two and a maximum of four players on the line of scrimmage for every play. All offensive and defensive linemen must be in a three point stance prior to the snap of the ball.
14. The offense is given thirty seconds from the spotting of the ball to the time they must snap the ball to begin the next play.
15. If the knee of the ball carrier touches the ground the player is down, whether touched by a player or not.
16. Placekicking takes place from the thirty-yard line.
17. If a kickoff goes out of bounds:  
  
1<sup>st</sup> kick out of bounds: Re-kick 5 yards back from original kick-off spot, take ball at spot of where ball went out of bounds, or take ball 20 yards from the spot of the kick-off.  
  
2<sup>nd</sup> kick out of bounds: take ball at spot of where ball went out of bounds, or take ball 20 yards from the spot of the kick-off.
18. After a safety the ball is free kicked (kick-off or freeze punt) from teams own twenty-yard line.
19. If a major injury occurs during the first half, NYS will attempt to finish out the second half of play. If a major injury occurs during the second half, NYS will determine if the game will continue, end as is, or be played where it was left off at a later time. NYS has the final authority in this matter.
20. In case of a tie each team will get one possession from the ten yard line to score. First possession will be determined by coin toss (visitor calls), chooses offense or defense. Both offenses will start at the southern ten yard line. There are no fumbles or interceptions. If the defense gains possession, the offensive set of downs will not continue (per NFHS overtime rules). Teams may elect to go for 1 or 2 on the point after attempt (PAT) in the 1<sup>st</sup> two overtimes. This will repeat if no winner is decided after 1<sup>st</sup> possession (the score remaining tied). Above NFHS rules, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime period, teams must go for 2 on the PAT. There must be a winner. Overtime will continue until there is a winner. Yards will not be used to determine the winner.

21. The game officials are not required to rotate balls for offense since there is one required ball for each division. Home teams will supply the game balls to be used for both teams on offense.
22. All players eligible for tournament play will be allotted an extra five pounds on their weigh in for the tournament. NYS understands that the tournament is several weeks after the end of most Spring football seasons, so we had added five pounds to the growth weight exception. Each player will receive 9 pounds for equipment and 14 pounds for growth on top of the standard non-padded weight. You can find the adjusted weights on the weigh in procedure page in the back of these rules.
23. EQUIPMENT NOTE: Mouthpieces cannot be clear or white. Please be aware of this high school rule before play begins.

## SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

### Loss of five yards:

- Delay of game
- Encroachment
- False Start
- Illegal formation (more or less than five players on the line of scrimmage)
- Illegal forward pass
- Illegal forward lateral
- Ineligible receiver down field
- Incidental face mask
- Intentional grounding
- Illegal substitution
- Illegal shift or motion

### Loss of ten yards:

- Holding
- Illegal use of hands (hands to the face, block in the back)

### Loss of fifteen yards:

- Un-sportsmanlike conduct (by a player, coach, or spectator)
- Intentional or accidental coach interference while on field
- Illegal block below the waist
- Clipping, tripping, chop block
- Grasping an opponents face mask
- Roughing the passer
- Slapping a blocker's head
- Illegal participation
- Sideline interference
- Illegal hit or block after a fair catch signal

### Disqualification:

- Fighting whether it is a player or spectator
- Striking, kicking, or kneeling any player or spectator
- Intentional contact with a game official
- Two un-sportsmanlike fouls by a player or spectator (Referee may eject a player, coach, and spectator for one unsportsmanlike conduct depending on severity of action).
- Any other act that is unruly, rough, and/or flagrant
- A spectator violating the parent line or cautioned parent area.

## **Rule Clarification**

### **Punting:**

- Punting is allowed on fourth down only
- Teams must declare to the official their intent to punt the football
- No fake punts, or quick kicks
- The punter may take the snap from the center but must punt the ball from a minimum of five yards behind the line of scrimmage
- A punting play may continue that begins with a fumbled snap
- If the football is punted into any player at the line of scrimmage it is ruled dead at the point of contact
- The offense may not run downfield until the ball is punted
- The defense must have a minimum of five players on the line of scrimmage.

### **Equipment Requirements**

**Each player shall properly wear the mandatory equipment in order to participate in any tackle football game or contact practice.**

1. Multi bar facemask that meets the NOCSAE standard.
2. Helmet with properly fastening chinstrap that meets the NOCSEA standard.
3. A mouthpiece.
4. Shoulder pads that meet the NOCSAE standard.
5. Hip pads and a tailbone pad.
6. Thigh guards with any hard surface that has a minimum compression resistance of four to eight pounds.
7. Knee pads at least ½ inch thick must be worn over the knee and under the pants.
8. **CASTS (on the arm/hand): Must be protected by at least 1” of padding and will be inspected by the officials and/or NYS Site Director before weigh-ins.**

**No player shall participate while wearing illegal equipment. This applies to any piece of equipment that in the opinion of the referee or the league coordinator is dangerous and inappropriate.**

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES**

- 1. The players, head coach, and assistant coaches can be in the coach's box on the sidelines. The coach's box is between the twenty yard lines. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fifteen-yard unsportsmanlike conduct. All other parents, friends, and/or relatives must stay in the stands. If a spectator crosses the designated parent area at any time the spectator will be ejected from the game.**
- 2. Profanity and arguing with any game official, NYS staff, or opposing parent/coach is not allowed, ZERO TOLERANCE. This will be strictly enforced. Failure to comply will be handled as follows:**

**Coach will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following game. More penalties may result depending on conduct violations.**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following game. If the problem persists then the child of the parent/guardian may be suspended for the entire tournament.**

**Players will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following game. If the problem persists then the child may be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and banned from future participation in the league.**

- 3. The use of electronic devices such as two way radios or cell phones for coaching purposes or between coaches and players is prohibited. Violation will result in immediate ejection from the game and suspension for the following game.**
- 4. In addition, any individual who is ejected from a game for any reason is subject to banishment from the league. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THOSE IN VIOLATION.**
- 5. NYS considers the code of conduct sheets that are handed out to each coach in his or her coach's packet during regular season play is the first warning to all individuals participating in the league.**
- 6. Parents that are in violation of the parent lines or are not in the designated area determined by NYS at the game site will be ask to leave the field area and be suspended for one game.**
- 7. Any parents found engaging in verbal or physical violence with other parents, coaches, referees, or NYS staff will be removed from the facility and suspended indefinitely from the league.**

## **WEIGH – IN PROCEDURES**

- THOSE CHILDREN FOUND TO BE INELIGIBLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY FOR THE DAY WORTH OF TOURNAMENT GAMES.
- DURING THE WEIGH-IN, ONLY NYS STAFF AND ONE COACH MAY BE IN THE WEIGH-IN AREA.
- ALL PLAYERS WILL BE WEIGHED IN FULL PADS WITH HELMETS.
- ONCE A CHILD STEPS ON THE SCALE, THE WEIGHT WILL BE RECORDED. THE CHILD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO WEIGH IN ONE TIME. IF A CHILD IS OVERWEIGHT THE CHILD IS INELIGIBLE FOR THE ENTIRE DAY.
- EACH PLAYER WILL BE GIVEN AN ALLOTTMENT OF NINE POUNDS FOR HIS OR HER EQUIPMENT AND FOURTEEN POUNDS OF GROWTH WEIGHT. WEIGHTS LISTED BELOW INCLUDE THIS ALLOTTMENT AND ARE THE MAXIMUM FOR EACH CHILD IN EVERY DIVISION. ANY CHILD OVER THIS AMOUNT DURING WEIGH-IN IS INELIGIBLE. AGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

### PEEWEE MAX WEIGHT

<b>6 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>103 LBS.</b>
<b>7 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>103 LBS.</b>
<b>8 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>88 LBS.</b>

### MIDGET MAX WEIGHT

<b>7 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>123 LBS.</b>
<b>8 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>123 LBS.</b>
<b>9 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>118 LBS.</b>
<b>10 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>113 LBS.</b>

### MINOR MAX WEIGHT

<b>9 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>148 LBS.</b>
<b>10 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>148 LBS.</b>
<b>11 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>138 LBS.</b>
<b>12 YEAR OLDS</b>	<b>133 LBS.</b>

**ANY RULE NOT LISTED WITHIN THIS RULE SHEET REFERS TO NFHS (NATIONAL FEDERTAIION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION) RULE BOOK. WEBSITE IS LOCATED AT [WWW.NFHS.ORG](http://WWW.NFHS.ORG) IF YOU NEED TO PURCHASE A RULE BOOK FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

## **AWARDS**

**Each team will receive tackle tournament shirts for joining the National Championship Tournament. These shirts will be available with on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Welcome Reception!**

**First Place: Team Trophy PLUS 20 Individual Trophies**

**Second Place: Team Trophy PLUS 20 Individual Trophies**