6. FOOTBALL — BOYS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Note: At the time this Handbook was being printed, modifications were being considered by the OHSAA Board of Directors as they relate to practices, coaching and the conduct of practice sessions. Please see the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) for the latest information, including any changes to these regulations approved by the Board.

1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) PRACTICE AND COACHING

1.11) Practice may begin August 1 for all schools.

1.12) All schools must respect a five-day acclimatization period during the first five days of practice. All athletes joining the team for the first time for any practice session or any contact drills. There must be an adequate recovery period between practice sessions.

1.13) During practices within the acclimatization period, players may wear helmets only on the first two days. On days three and four, helmets and shoulder pads are allowed. From day five onward, full pads are allowed. Prior to the sixth day of practice no full contact is permitted. During the first five days of practice, athletes may engage in conditioning, speed, strength and agility drills and may use “dummies” for drills and walk-throughs.

1.14) Sundays, August 2, 9 and 16, are mandatory days off.

1.15) Any practice or workout including two or more school teams or partial teams is a scrimmage.

1.16) Conduct of Practice Sessions

1.16.1) When temperatures are 84 degrees or higher, temperature and humidity readings shall be taken at the site (30) minutes prior to the start of activity.

1.16.2) The temperature and humidity shall be factored into the Heat Index Calculation and Chart and a determination made as to the Heat Index. If schools are utilizing a digital sling psychrometer that calculates the Heat Index, that number may be used to apply to the table.

1.16.3) If a reading is determined whereby activity is to be decreased (above 95 degrees Heat Index), then re-readings are required every thirty (30) minutes to determine if further activity should be eliminated or preventative steps taken, or if an increased level of activity can resume.

1.16.4) Use the scale defined in the Heat Regulations on page 85.

1.17) A football team may not travel out of state only to practice.

1.2) SCRIMMAGES

1.21) Any practice or workout including two or more teams or partial teams is a scrimmage.

1.22) No admission of money, materials or supplies may be charged for a scrimmage. Voluntary donations of supplies or money may be accepted at a scrimmage but cannot be required for admission.

1.23) Grades 9-12 – Scrimmages may be held after a minimum of seven days of practice and prior to the first game.

1.24) Grades 9-12 may participate in a maximum of two scrimmages not to exceed three hours in length. The three-hour time limit begins when the scrimmage begins. In addition to two scrimmages, high school teams may participate in a third preseason contest, a Jamboree. (see 1.3 on the next page)
1.25) Grades 7 & 8 may participate in one scrimmage after 10 days of practice. Two
scrimmages are permitted if a maximum of seven regular season games are
scheduled. A scrimmage is limited to a maximum of two hours with the time
being counted continuously once the scrimmage begins.

1.3) JAMBOREE – Grades 9-12

Jamboree - A Jamboree may be played on August 13, 14, 15 or August 20, 21, 22, 2015. 
There is a fee of $250 per team for all teams participating in this game. This fee is
payable to the OHSAA. An admission charge for this game is permitted. The Jamboree
must be conducted in accordance with NFHS game rules.

Note: Kicks may be eliminated during a Jamboree. Details on a Jamboree are posted
on the OHSAA website.

It is a violation of Sports Regulations if a school does not comply with the policies
outlined in the Jamboree Application. Penalties include, but are not limited to,
fines up to $500, loss of one scrimmage in the following season and removal from
the tournament.

1.4) PREVIEW – Grades 9-12

One preview may be played in lieu of one scrimmage. A preview may be scheduled
and played only during the period of time beginning with the Friday before the season
begins and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved.
A preview may not exceed two quarters for any one player or team and shall be played
in accordance with the National Federation Football Rules. An admission charge is
permitted.

1.5) QUARTERS AND GAME LIMITATIONS

1.51A) 9th-12th grade student is limited to playing:
   a) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
   b) A maximum of 50 quarters per season (excluding OHSAA tournaments).

1.51B) 7th & 8th grade student is limited to playing:
   a) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
   b) A maximum of 32 quarters per season (28 quarters if seven regular
      season games are scheduled).

1.52) Any player who participates in one or more consecutive downs in one
quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play. A down in which the
offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation or a free kick occurs
does not count in the quarter limitation. A down repeated due to penalty
does not count.

1.6) LENGTH OF PERIODS

1.61) Grades 7 & 8 — Maximum length of each quarter is eight minutes.

1.62) Grades 9-12 – Maximum length for each quarter for 9th, JV and Reserve – 10
minutes. Varsity – Maximum length of each quarter is 12 minutes.

1.63) Overtime Procedure: Regular season varsity high school only games which are
tied at the end of regulation time shall be continued until there is a winner (no
ties) by using the 20-yard line overtime procedure. Overtime is not permitted
below the varsity level.

Note: Use the OHSAA overtime procedure that is posted on the OHSAA web-
site and published in the OHSAA Football Manual. Do NOT use the overtime
procedure listed in the NFHS Rules Book.

1.64) Point Differential/Running Clock: After the first half of regular season 7th-8th
grade, sub-varsity and varsity contests, any time the score differential reaches
30 points or more, a running clock shall be used. After the 30-point differential
has been met but the score drops below 30 points, the clock reverts to regular
timing.

Running clock procedures, which include when the clock will still be stopped,
are published on the OHSAA website and in the OHSAA Football Manual.
Note: The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3-1-3, which reads: “A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.”

1.7) NO CONTEST/FORFEIT

Teams are expected to play all games not begun on the earliest potential makeup date. If a game is not played on the scheduled date and the schools are unable to agree to a mutually convenient makeup date, the Commissioner’s office will determine whether the date is treated as a “no-contest” or forfeiture, taking into consideration the reason for cancelling the scheduled contest and the rationale used by the schools in their efforts to re-schedule the contest.

1.8) GRADES 7 & 8 – SPECIAL INFORMATION

1.81) GAME BALL — (Wilson Game Ball Recommended)

The football used in games involving players in the 7th or 8th grade shall be the youth football. Specifications are listed in the National Federation Football Rule Book.

1.82) MODIFICATION

In games involving only players below ninth grade, teams will not free kick. In place of a free kick, the receiving team will put the ball in play by a snap. The snap shall be made from the yard line 25 yards beyond the kicking team’s free kick line. This modification does NOT apply to scrimmage kicks (punts or placement).

2) Out-of-State Travel

A football team may travel out of state to compete in contests (scrimmages, previews and games) in states that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Canadian province includes Ontario. Additionally, a football team may travel to a non-contiguous state or province one time per interscholastic season provided there is no loss of school time. (Bylaw 9-2-1). A football team may not travel out of state to practice (See Bylaw 9-2-2 for exceptions).

3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

Any student or coach ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all football contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all football games at all levels until one regular season/tournament contest is played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. (General Sports Regulations Sections 13 and 14).

4) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play football, please go to the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (scrimmages, previews, Foundation games, jamborees) until regular season contest number six (6) in football.

5) Non-Interscholastic Participation

5.1) A member of an interscholastic football team may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team in that same sport between August 1 and May 31. Flag football, touch football and arena football are examples of non-permissible events.

Note: This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school program or team. (General Sports Regulation 7.2.1)

From June 1 to July 31, a member of an interscholastic football team may participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team. This would include 7-on-7 participation. (See General Sports Regulation 7.5)
**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

5.2) Individual Skill Instruction (Camps/Combines)

A football athlete may receive individual skill instruction. Football athletes may also participate in camps and/or combines for individual skill instruction outside the season. (See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for specific details.)

**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

5.3) ALL-STAR COMPETITION

In the sport of football, only a graduating senior or a student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current semester may participate in “All-Star” competition.

See General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 for regulations permitting students to participate on non-school teams outside of the school team’s season.

See General Sports Regulation 7.6 for regulations permitting coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team’s season (“All-Star” Games).

5.4) INDIVIDUAL NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION DATES:

5.41) A football athlete who has not participated for the school team in football that season must cease non-interscholastic football competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Semifinals in Football in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

5.42) Football players may be used for out-of-season demonstrations only if approved in advance by the Commissioner.

5.5) COACHING AND COACHES

5.51 All interscholastic football coaches, whether paid or volunteer, must be approved by the Board of Education.

5.52 See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to provide individual skill instruction from August 1 through May 31.

5.53 See General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team’s season (10-day rule).

6) Coaches — No Contact Period

See Regulations for No Contact Period – Coaches under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

7) Penalties

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic football squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic football season and/or the ensuing football season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

8) Addendum to 2015 Football Regulations

8.1) The 2015 Football Manual is published as an addendum to these regulations. Items of interest include, but are not limited to, regulations regarding contest management, bands, conduct of practice, 25 second clocks, protection of officials, additional penalties, etc.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1 for all schools.

2) First game — August 24, 2015.

3) Coaching and Season end – Conclusion of last regular season or tournament game.
4) Scrimmages or Preview and Jamboree – Two scrimmages or one scrimmage and one preview. Schools may also participate in a Jamboree. See the OHSAA website for details.

5) Regular season games — 10.

EXCEPTION: A league or conference may play one additional game to determine the league or conference champion. Any league or conference championship game in which the opponents are not determined prior to the start of the regular season does not count toward the computer rankings. No such game may be played after November 7.


7) Officials:

7.1) Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 football only. Recommended crew of at least 5.

7.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 football only.

Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training. Recommend crew of 4 or more.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1 for all schools.

2) First game may be played – After 15 days of practice, but no earlier than August 19, 2015.

3) Coaching and Season end — October 31, 2015 or at the conclusion of the last contest, whichever occurs earliest.

4) Scrimmage — One after 10 days of practice and prior to the first game or two if only seven games are scheduled.

5) Regular Season games — Maximum of 8. If two scrimmages are played, seven games permitted.

6) Rules — National Federation Football (with kickoff modification).

7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training. Recommend crew of 4.

### Football

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### REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS — ORDER OF COMPETITION

#### Regional Tournaments — State Semifinals

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#### SESSION SEQUENCE — STATE FINALS

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