

Lenawee Youth Football League

2021 5th/6th Grade Tackle Rules

Purpose:

This league and each individual program are to strive to teach the game of football to the children. If our players aren't learning and having fun, we aren't doing our job as the leaders of this program. We all know football is a rough and physical sport that takes a lot of hard work, but we must keep in mind that we are working with 5th and 6th graders. Winning and losing is a small priority. They will have many years ahead of them to worry about wins and losses. If we prepare them the proper way, there will be no losers.

Organization:

Each school shall have one voting representative at all league meetings. Those representatives shall have a vote on all matters of league operations. In the event of a tie vote, the commissioner will cast the tie breaking vote.

In the event of a grievance, the commissioner must be notified by the parties involved within 24 hours. Upon full investigation of the incident the commissioner will either render a decision or call a meeting of the coach's board to present the problem and seek a fair settlement.

At the end of the season the coach's board will meet to review the rules and make policy changes. The commissioner shall report a state of the league review. Any change in league officers will be made at this meeting.

General Rules:

- 1) Safety of the kids is always first priority.
- 2) Every effort will be made to ensure all kids play at least 50% of each game.
- 3) Each team coach is responsible for ethical play.
- 4) Swearing will not be tolerated by players or coaches. (ejection)
- 5) Flagrant fouls to injure others will not be tolerated. (ejection)
- 6) Using the helmet as a weapon will not be tolerated. (ejection)
- 7) No team can start practicing before the Tuesday after Labor Day.
- 8) Coaches receiving an unsportsmanlike conduct will be immediately removed and suspended for one week (practices and games).

Game Day Operations:

- 1) Games will be played at 9:30am on Saturdays.
- 2) Each field shall have a scoreboard, down markers, and a 100 yard field.
- 3) The home team will be responsible for providing officials, chains crew, and scoreboard operator.
- 4) A coin toss will decide ball possession at the beginning of the game.
- 5) At the conclusion of each game, teams will line up on the 50 yard line to shake hands.
- 6) Announcers and concessions are optional

Game Specifics:

- 1) Official ball will be Youth or Junior size (No PeeWee).
- 2) Scores are kept on the board. Once any team leads by 21 points, the score is turned off.
- 3) Each quarter is a 15 minute running clock (except for change of possession and injury). If the score is within 8 points in the last two minutes of the game, the clock will operate on varsity rules (i.e., stop on first downs, incomplete passes, out of bounds, etc.)
- 4) There will be a 45 second game clock. Any play not started within that time of the ball being spotted will result in a 5-yard delay of game penalty.
- 5) Each team will have three 1-minute timeouts per half.
- 6) No coaches on the field during play.
- 7) No kickoffs – Teams will start from their own 30 yard line.
- 8) Punts – There will be no rush. There will be a long snap. Punts that are fielded cleanly will be advanced 5 yards from the spot it was fielded. If not, ball will be marked dead at its furthest point.
- 9) Extra points: Ball will be spotted at the 3 yard line. 1 point awarded for a successful run or pass; 2 points awarded for a successful kick. Team must determine whether they will kick or go for it prior to the play. No fakes. Kick attempts will be from the 10 yard line where the holder will be. There will be a long snap. There shall be no rush. All players besides long snapper, holder, and kicker shall take a knee.
- 10) No more than SIX players on the defensive line
 - a. Any player in the tackle box on the defensive line must be in a down position.
 - b. No lining up head up on the center.
 - c. Linebackers must be 5 yards off the ball.
 - d. No players in between the line of scrimmage and 5 yards are permitted to blitz.
 - e. For goal line and short yardage plays, you may have a full complement of down linemen.
- 11) Horse collar rule: if the player is brought down by an opponent's hand going inside the collar of the shoulder pads, it is a horse collar. Incidental jersey grabs happen often at this age and our league does not want officials calling horse collar penalties if only a jersey has been grabbed.
- 12) After a safety, the ball will be placed on the opposite 40 yard line instead of the 30.