

6. FOOTBALL — BOYS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) PRACTICE AND COACHING

- 1.11) Uniforms may be fitted no earlier than July 20. In addition, it shall be clear to athletes that they are not permitted to wear school-issued equipment except at school-sponsored events. Helmets may be issued no earlier than May 25.
- 1.12) Five Days of Acclimatization Required — Acclimatization is a period of time when players can become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Health professionals recommend at least a five-day period. All football candidates must participate in five days of preseason non-contact acclimatization prior to any physical contact. No pads may be worn on the first two days. Shorts, helmets, shoes may be worn. Shoulder pads may be added on day three and four, but no contact is permitted. Full equipment may be worn on the fifth day, but contact is prohibited. Candidates reporting late must participate in five days of non-contact acclimatization. This rule applies to all school teams grade 7-12. Note: Sunday, August 8 and 15, are mandatory days off.
- 1.13) Any football coach may coach athletes in football from the school where employed/volunteers only during the season of the sport. EXCEPTION: A maximum of 7 days of coaching is permitted in June and July as specified in the OHSAA Bylaws or Sports Regulations. Note: The 7 on 7 tournament conducted by the OHSFCA prior to the North-South All-Star Game does not count in the 7 day limit.

1.2) SCRIMMAGES

- 1.21) Scrimmages may be held after a minimum of seven days of practice and prior to the first game.
- 1.22) 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, schools may participate in a Jamboree, a preseason contest played in accordance with NFHS playing rules. Details on Jamboree games are posted at www.ohsaa.org.
- 1.23) Grades 7 & 8 may participate in two scrimmages in 2009. They are limited to a maximum of two hours. The time limit begins when the scrimmage begins. The first scrimmage may not be held until after 10 days of practice are conducted.
- 1.24) No admissions, collections or donations may be required for spectator attendance at a scrimmage.
- 1.25) Any practice or workout including two or more teams or partial teams is a scrimmage.

1.3) PREVIEW

High School — One preview may be played in lieu of a 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 shall 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.

7 & 8th Grade — One preview may be held in lieu of a regular season game. It must be scheduled after the scrimmage and before any regular season game. A preview shall not exceed two quarters for any one player or team. NFHS football rules, as modified by the OHSAA, will be used. Admission charge is allowed.

1.4) PLAYER LIMITATIONS

A. 9th-12th grade student is limited to playing:

- 1) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
- 2) A maximum of 40 quarters per season.

(Penalty — See Sports Regulations)

Any player who participates in two or more successive downs in any quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play.

- 1.41) Any player who participates in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play, except those downs in which the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation as defined in National Federation Football Rule 2-13-2.

B. 7th & 8th grade student is limited to playing:

- 1) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
- 2) A maximum of 28 quarters per season.

(Penalty — See Sports Regulations)

1.5) LENGTH OF PERIODS

- 1.51) Grades 7 & 8 — Maximum length of each quarter is eight minutes. Halftime intermission is 10 minutes, maximum.

- 1.52) Grades 9-12

Ninth grade — Maximum length of each quarter is 10 minutes. Maximum length of halftime intermission is 10 minutes.

Sophomore, Junior Varsity, Reserve, Varsity — Maximum length of each quarter is 12 minutes.

- 1.53) Overtime procedure. Regular season varsity high school games which are tied at the end of regulation time shall be continued by using the OHSAA 20-yard line overtime procedure. The overtime procedure shall be permitted in non-varsity games when there is mutual agreement, prior to the game, by the opposing coaches to do so. After every third overtime period, there will be an intermission of three minutes.

1.6) NO CONTEST

Any scheduled regular season football game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of a team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-loss statistics.

1.7) GRADES 7 & 8 SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

- 1.71) GAME BALL

The football used in games involving players in the 7th or 8th grade shall be the youth football. Specifications are listed in Rule 1-3-1, National Federation Football Rules.

- 1.72) MODIFICATION

In games involving only players below ninth grade, teams will not free kick the ball. 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 that would have been used for the free kick, subject to any carryover penalties. 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 and the Canadian province Ontario that are contiguous to Ohio, regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a football team may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio, provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A football team may not travel out of state only to practice (See Bylaw 9-2-2).

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.

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Section 10 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) Non-Interscholastic Participation

4.1) A member of an interscholastic football squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of football during the school’s season.

4.2) ALL-STAR COMPETITION

A graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current semester because of age or completion of semester eligibility, may play in no more than two All-Star Games without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the current school year. Participation in more than two All-Star Contests shall render a student ineligible the balance of the second semester for all athletics.

Note: An All-Star Game is defined as a non-interscholastic contest in which all contestants on each team are senior-grade players selected from four or more school teams. No more than three players from any one school may participate. The coach of an All-Star team may coach players from his school in the All-Star contest.

4.3) INDIVIDUAL NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION DATES:

4.31) 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.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in football who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in football shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in football in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

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

4.4) NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM PLAY

4.41) Athletes

4.41.1 Football squad members may play non-interscholastic NON-CONTACT football only during June and July either in non-interscholastic competition or during instructional programs. Note: Helmet and shoes may be worn.

4.41.2 Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition. Flag football, touch football and arena style football are examples of non-permissible events.

4.41.3 Participation in any type of tackle/contact football outside of the school season such as camps, clinics, arena-style, etc. is prohibited.

4.42) Coaches

4.42.1 School coaches may coach football athletes from the school team during June and July in non-interscholastic competition with certain restrictions.

a) If six or more squad members are from the school where the coaching staff members were employed the previous football season, the coaching staff members are limited to a maximum of 10 days. The 10-day limitation is a total of any combination of days in instructional programs and non-interscholastic competition.

b) If five or less squad members on the roster of a non-interscholastic team are from the same school, the coach may coach the non-interscholastic team in non-contact team play only from June 1 to July 31 and the contact does not count as a coaching day.

Note: All interscholastic football coaches, whether paid or volunteer, must be approved by the Board of Education. OHSAA regulations apply to paid and volunteer coaches.

5) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 5 of the General Sports Regulations.

6) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

7) Penalties

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 4.3 (participation with a non-interscholastic football squad while a member of the school's 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 or the ensuing football season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

8) Addendum to 2009 Football Regulations

8.1) The *2009 Preseason Football Manual* is published as an addendum to these regulations. Items of interest include, but are not limited to, specifics regarding contest management, bands, conduct of practice, 25 second clocks, protection of officials, additional penalties, etc.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — August 3, 2009.
- 2) First game — August 24, 2009.
- 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 after a minimum of seven days of practice. Schools may also participate in a Jamboree, a preseason contest played in accordance with NFHS playing rules. See the OHSAA web site for details. The earliest scrimmage date is August 11 and the latest date is August 22.
- 5) Regular season games — 10.
EXCEPTION: A league or conference may play one additional game to determine the league or conference champion. Note: Any league or conference championship games in which the opponents are not determined prior to the start of the regular season do not count toward the computer rankings.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Football.
- 7) Officials:
 - 7.1) Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 football official only. Recommended 5 man crew.
 - 7.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 football official only.
 - 7.3) Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football official required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — August 3, 2009.
- 2) First game or preview may be played — After 15 days of practice, but no earlier than August 24, 2009.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — October 23, 2009 or at the conclusion of the last contest, whichever occurs earliest.
- 4) Scrimmages — Two after 10 days of practice and prior to the first game.
- 5) Regular Season games — Maximum of 7 or 6 and 1 preview. Note: In 2010, 7 & 8th grade teams may play an eight-game schedule.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Football.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football official required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training.

Football	2009	2010	2011	2012
Coaching Begins	8/3	8/2	8/1	7/30
Interscholastic Scrimmage Dates	8/11-8/22	8/10-8/21	8/9-8/20	8/7-8/18
Season Begins	8/24	8/23	8/22	8/20
Non-Interscholastic Date	10/12	10/11	10/10	10/8
Regional Quarterfinals	11/6-11/7	11/5-11/6	11/4-11/5	11/2-11/3
Regional Semifinals	11/13-11/14	11/12-11/13	11/11-11/12	11/9-11/10
Regional Finals	11/20-11/21	11/19-11/20	11/18-11/19	11/16-11/17
State Semifinals	11/27-11/28	11/26-11/27	11/25-11/26	11/23-11/24
State Finals	12/4-12/5	12/3-12/4	12/2-12/3	11/30-12/1
Thanksgiving	11/26	11/25	11/24	11/22
Season Ends	Conclusion of last regular season or OHSAA tournament game			
Coach — No Contact Period	Begins on first day after last game and ends after 28th day			

REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS — ORDER OF COMPETITION

Year	Regional Tournaments			State Semifinals		
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
2009, 2013, 2017	S	F	F	S	F	S
2010, 2014, 2018	S	F	S	F	S	F
2011, 2015, 2019	S	F	F	S	F	S
2012, 2016, 2020	S	F	S	F	S	F

SESSION SEQUENCE — STATE FINALS

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
2009, 2013	6	3	1	4	2	5
2010, 2014	6	3	5	1	4	2
2011, 2015	6	3	2	5	1	4
2012, 2016	6	3	4	2	5	1