

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

1. Eligibility, protests, penalties will reflect the N.C.S.S.A.A. general by-laws.
2. There is no restriction on the number of players a team may dress.
3. Scoring and Timing

All regularly scheduled senior **and junior** league and play-off games will consist of four (4) 12-minute quarters, with 3 minute warnings at the end of the second and fourth quarters. All timing will be "by the book".

Time outs between periods will be as follows:

- i) two (2) minutes between the first and second and third and fourth periods
- ii) the half time will be a maximum of ten minutes

If a team does not submit a valid Game sheet (as determined by the referee) to the scorer by the time the referee begins the game, the opposing team shall be awarded one point.

4. Minor Officials

Each home team will provide five (5) minor officials: a timer, scorer, downsboxman and two yardstick boys. These minor officials are under the supervision and control, of the referee.

5. The N.C.S.S.A.A. High School Football League will play under C.A.F.A. rules, with the exception of timing.

6. Play-offs

Once the NCSSAA has committed to sending an entry to the A/AA football event, the A/AA team playing Tier 1 football who plays deepest into the playoffs will be the entry. In the event of two A/AA teams being eliminated from the Tier 1 playoffs in the same round, a playoff between these two teams will determine the representative to OFSAA.

The field of the home team will be used in quarter and semi-final play-off games, with the following exceptions;

- (1) if the field is not in playable condition;
- (2) if the home team does not have a field;
- (3) **if the convenor deems it necessary to play elsewhere.**

If either of the first two conditions exist, the coach of the home team will have the opportunity to arrange the use of an alternate field in conjunction with the convenor and the athletic coordinator responsible for football.

In any play-off game other than a championship game, the visiting team has the choice at the start of the game to take the options at the start of the first half, or defer them to the second half. The home team will have the choice of options for the half not selected by the visiting team. In all championship games the team that has the choice at the beginning of the game shall be determined by a coin toss. The winner of the toss shall have the option of choice in the first or second half.

Should the referee deem it not expedient to play overtime at the conclusion of a tie game in a sudden-death play-off game, then an additional sudden-death play-off game will be played at a later date to be arranged by the convenor.

7. A player who plays or practices with a Junior Football team on or after the date of the first league game of the N.C.S.S.A.A. Football schedule, shall be ineligible to play for his school team.
8. If a student is ejected from a game by an official, he is automatically suspended for a minimum of one game, until his case is reviewed by the convenor. **The coach of the player concerned must inform the convenor immediately.**
9. Change of League (Tier)
- a) A senior football team may play in a league (tier) above the previous year's division at the discretion of the team's coaches and the school's Athletic Director.
- b) A senior football team may play in a division below the previous year's division depending upon:
- (i) the school population
 - (ii) the existence of a junior team
 - (iii) the rationale presented by the coaching staff at a meeting of league's football coaches' meeting
10. Game Films and Scouting
- no school shall film any game unless they are playing in said game.
 - no school shall scout another team's practice.
 - if Team A wishes to exchange films with Team B to scout a game in which Team C played, permission shall be necessary from Team C.
 - scouting another team's game shall be permitted.
11. During time outs in play, coaches must remain on the sideline.
12. **By-Law #8, section 3, sub-section (i), point (d) of the NCSSAA Constitution shall not be applied to the sport of football.**

SECTION 3 BREAKING TIES

No team tied for the final playoff position in non-seeded leagues can be eliminated without a tie-breaker game. Where final league standings are to be determined in leagues/divisions with an unbalanced number of games played, each teams final point total will be prorated based on the number of games played.

- i) **BREAKING TIES FOR LEAGUE STANDINGS BETWEEN TWO TEAMS**
- a) most wins (in the case of unbalanced schedules, team records will be prorated to a winning percentage)
 - b) games played between teams tied
 - c) point differential of 2 or more games played between teams tied
 - d) fewest points/goals/runs per game*
 - e) coin toss