



Wright County Conference

7-8 Grade Football Guidelines



Philosophy: With the increasing number of players at the 7th and 8th grade levels, it is important to establish a format to meet the needs of these young football players. Below is the format to be used to increase the amount of playing time available to these young players.

Recommended Format

4:15pm - 4:45pm - Scrimmage:

The scrimmage will have the field divided in half. Each team will have the opportunity to begin at the 40 yard line of the defense and have 10 offensive plays. After the offense scores, the remainder of the plays will begin at the 40 yard line. If the defense creates a turnover, the offense will begin at the 40 yard line for the remainder of their plays. This format will be continued until the end of the scrimmage time. If a team does not have enough players to divide into two teams, then the coaches will substitute their players/squads accordingly in a single scrimmage format.

4:50pm - 6:00pm - Game:

Games will consist of **FOUR 15 minute quarters** – running time, except for the following:

- Final two minutes of the 2nd & 4th quarters
- Penalties start with the ready for play signal
- Touchdowns start with the ready for play signal
- Timeouts start with the ready for play signal

Punting: Must be declared regardless of down. Neither team can cross the neutral zone. The defense must have at least five players on the line of scrimmage. A first down occurs where the ball is downed and the receiver cannot advance the ball after the catch. There is no contact by any player during the punt. If the punter fumbles the ball, he must kick the ball from the spot where he picks it up. If a punt is batted forward or goes forward after touching a receiver, the ball is downed at the spot of the first touching.

Kickoffs: No kickoffs, the ball is ready for play at the 40 yard line.

Timeouts: 2 per half.

Stunting: No stunting allowed. Teams cannot have more than 6 linemen on the goal line. Linebackers must line up at least 1 yard behind the down linemen. Linebackers cannot pursue the ball through the line of scrimmage until the QB has handed the off to another back.

Note: One coach may be on the field with their team during the games. Coaches will be in a coaching capacity only, not officiating or stopping play.