

FOOTBALL

1. CATEGORIES:

SHSAA champions will be declared in six categories of football:

- a) **6-Man:** For schools with a maximum of 85 boys in Grades 10 – 12. Schools entering 6-man football will be designated 1A or 2A according to their student population.

1A 6-Man: The bottom 50% of schools entered in the activity.

2A 6-Man: The top 50% of schools entered in the activity. The cut-off number for the two categories will be a floating number with no cap. If two or more teams have the identical male student populations at the cut-off number, those teams will be placed in the classification they held the previous year, with the exception that one of the cut-off teams belongs to a conference where a provincial playoff seed needs to be filled due to a lack of teams classified in either 1A or 2A. If an odd number of teams are registered for six-man football, then the 2A classification shall pick up the extra team.

- b) **9-Man:** For schools with a maximum of 250 boys in Grades 10 – 12. Schools entering 9-man football will be designated 2A or 3A according to their student population.

2A 9-Man: The bottom 50% of schools entered in the activity.

3A 9-Man: The top 50% of schools entered in the activity. The cut-off number for the two categories will be a floating number with no cap. If two or more teams have the identical male student populations at the cut-off number, those teams will be placed in the classification they held the previous year, with the exception that one of the cut-off teams belongs to a conference where a provincial playoff seed needs to be filled due to a lack of teams classified in either 2A or 3A. If an odd number of teams are registered for nine-man football, then the 3A classification shall pick up the extra team.

- c) **3A 12-Man:** For schools from the Moose Jaw league and schools involved in the Regina and Saskatoon leagues with 325 or fewer male students in Grades 10-12.

- d) **4A 12-Man:** For schools involved in the Regina and Saskatoon leagues with 326 or more male students in grades 10-12. Note: Schools in the Regina and Saskatoon leagues may elect to reclassify from 3A to 4A annually.

NOTE: Schools involved in football that anticipate they will participate in a different category of football, than the previous year, must inform the SHSAA office of their intent by April 15th preceding the season. Failure to comply may mean the team will have to participate in the same category as the previous year.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

- a) Grade nine students may play football for the school they would normally attend upon their promotion to grade ten. This must be done with the written permission of parents and school.
- b) Any athlete who has participated in Junior Football, the "Senior Bowl" the "Saskota Bowl", the "Can Am Bowl" or the "Canada Cup Under 19" will be ineligible to play for any high school football team in Saskatchewan.

3. GAME TIME:

All provincial playoff games will be played at 1:00 p.m., unless both teams agree to play at a different time.

4. GAME OFFICIALS:

Game officials (4 in six-man, 5 in nine-man, 6 in twelve-man) for all playoff games will be appointed by the District Officials Commissioner and Referee-in-Chief, in consultation with the SHSAA office.

5. PLAYING FIELDS:

Hosts must ensure that the field being used is safe for play. Schools involved in football must have padded goal posts installed on their field in order to host an interschool football contest. Goal posts should be in good repair and end zones the proper size and free from obstructions. Host teams must find some method of keeping the crowd from infringing on the playing surface. The players' benches must be kept free from intrusion by non-team personnel. Spectators should be on the opposite side of the players' bench, if not, must be kept a reasonable distance from the players' bench and the field of play. Effective for the 2017 season; all games will use a visible and functioning score clock.

6. UNIFORM CONFLICTS:

If a conflict in color occurs and only one team has a second set of uniforms, then that team would be responsible for changing uniforms. If both teams have a second set of uniforms or neither team has a second set of uniforms, it is the responsibility of the visiting team to change uniforms or find an alternate uniform if there has been at least four days' notice given prior to the respective game day.

7. AWARDS:

- a) Provincial Champions – trophy, keeper plaque, individual gold medals, game ball
- b) Runners-up – keeper plaque, individual silver medals

8. RULES:

The SHSAA has adopted the Canadian Amateur Rule Book for Tackle Football for all categories of high school football with modifications outlined below:

- 1) All "No Yards" penalties in 6-man and 9-man shall be assessed as 5-yard or 10-yard penalties depending on if the ball has bounced prior to being touched by the receiving team.
- 2) The player snapping the ball cannot be contacted after release of the ball until the player:
 - a) Crosses the one-yard restraining zone; or
 - b) Sets up in a pass-blocking stancePenalty: A 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalty.

- 3) It is illegal for any player outside the 'close line play area' to block below the waist. The CLPA is defined as two yards on either side of the line of scrimmage and tackle to tackle (9-man: five offensive linemen provided these 5 are in formation taking their normal splits of 1-2 yards from their nearest inside man; 6-man: three offensive linemen with the above provision accounted for; ends in the 6-man and 9-man games are not allowed to block below the waist if they are split further than 2 yards from their nearest inside lineman).
- 4) When a player goes down with an injury where he/she is attended to by a person from the sideline, the player must remain off the field for a minimum of three plays including special team play.
- 5) In all categories of football, the clock shall stop after a first down has been gained.
- 6) Effective 2015, high school football teams will retain the eligible and ineligible numbering system that was previously in place by Football Canada (Ineligible numbers are 40 - 69).
- 7) The game will follow stop time guidelines regardless of the score.
- 8) The visiting team will call the coin toss to determine which team will have the choice to defer, kick/receive or defend an end.
- 9) ***The following statement is added to Rule 7 – Section 3 – Article 16 b): Forcibly hitting the defenseless player anywhere on the body without attempting to use the arms to make a tackle by encircling the player or grasping the player. To make forcible contact below the neck area while attempting to tackle the defenseless player with the arms is NOT prohibited contact.***

9. OVERTIME:

The following tie-breaking system will be used when a game is tied after four periods. Amateur football playing rules apply with the following exceptions:

- a) Immediately after the conclusion of the fourth quarter, officials will instruct both teams to retire to their respective team areas. The officials will assemble at centerfield and review the tie-breaking procedure.
- b) The officials will escort captains to the center of the field for the coin toss. The winner of the toss shall choose one of the following options:
 - i.) Offense or defense, with the offense at the opponent's 35-yard line to start.
 - ii.) Which end of the field shall be used for the overtime period.
- c) The loser of the toss shall exercise the remaining option for the first extra period and shall have the first choice of the two options for subsequent even-numbered extra periods.
- d) Extra periods: An extra period provides each team the opportunity to put the ball in play by a snap, on or between the hash marks of the opponent's 35 yard-line, except if team B scores during a team A possession. Each team retains the ball until it scores or fails to make a first down. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead.
- e) Scoring: The team scoring the greater number of points during an extra period shall be declared the winner. If the score is still tied after three extra periods having been played, any subsequent touchdown must be followed by a non-kicking conversion.
- f) There shall be no team time-outs during overtime play.

10. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) It is expected that at least one member of the coaching staff of all high school football teams will attend a Football Saskatchewan seminar/workshop on equipment every year. This individual must inspect all high school football equipment prior to issuing of such equipment for the season or have a trained specialist inspect the equipment prior to the beginning of the season.
- b) It is recommended that, at the time of equipment issue, a seminar for players, and possibly parents, be held to explain and stress the importance of proper fitting, safety and maintenance. After such a seminar, each player should be personally supervised when equipment is properly fitted and issued.
- c) It is imperative that no player is allowed on the playing field without a certified, approved, properly fitting helmet.
- d) All high school football teams must have a medical plan in place before any games are played. This should include:
 - 1) A detailed emergency procedure.
 - 2) A designated vehicle to be used for emergencies.
 - 3) Medical personnel in attendance (doctor, physiotherapist, nurse, or emergency-trained person).
 - 4) Emergency equipment supplies such as stretchers, etc.
- e) Tinted visors are not allowed regardless of a medical note.
- f) Effective May 1, 2017, at least one coach from each high school tackle football team will be trained in the Safe Contact Module.

11. OFFICIAL BALL

The official ball for all playoff games during the 2018 season is the Wilson F2000 supplied by Skyline Athletics.

12. SPRING FOOTBALL CAMPS

1. Camps will be limited to 5 practices.
2. Camps will be limited to controlled contact drills.
3. Camps may not interfere with other school sport activities.
4. Scrimmages will be limited to the final day of camp and be conducted under close supervision of the coaches. In order to scrimmage, athletes must wear full equipment.
5. Under no circumstances are schools allowed to play games or conduct controlled scrimmages with other schools.

6-MAN FOOTBALL INFORMATION

1. 6-man competition is restricted to those schools that have fewer than 86 boys registered in grades 10 through 12.
2. Any place in the rulebook where the term 12 PLAYERS is used, substitute the term 6 PLAYERS.
3. Any place in the rulebook where reference is made to 20 YARDS (i.e. Hash Marks) substitute with 10 YARDS.
4. For placement of the ball, on all occasions, subtract 5 yards from the indicated number. EXCEPTION: The ball must not be placed on the 5-yard line unless by reason of penalty.

5. **THE PLAYING FIELD:**
 - a) The field shall be 100 yards long (goal line to goal line) and 40 yards wide.
 - b) End zones shall be 10 yards deep.
 - c) The 20 and 40 yards lines shall be of double thickness.
 - d) Hash marks shall be located 13 yards from the sidelines. If the natural boundary of the field is less than 10 yards behind the goal lines, such boundary shall be the DEAD LINE.
6. The length of the game shall be 48 minutes of playing time, divided into four quarters of 12 minutes each. A 15-minute rest period shall be allowed at the end of the second quarter, or other rest period as the teams do mutually agree on.
7. The three-minute stop-time provision at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters outlined in the rule book shall be played as **TWO MINUTES AT THE END OF THE 2ND AND 4TH QUARTERS.**
8. At the instant the ball is put into play, at least 3 players of the offensive team must be stationary on the line of scrimmage.
9. The centre is an eligible pass receiver if he lines up on the end of the line of scrimmage and is wearing an eligible receiver's number. Any other player on the line, not occupying the outside position is an ineligible receiver.
10. The convert after a touchdown in 6-man football will be worth two (2) points, if kicked, and a convert that involves running or passing the ball into the end zone is worth one (1) point.
11. Teams may dress any number of players but only 36 medals will be provided by the SHSAA for the championship game. Additional medals may be purchased from the SHSAA office if needed.
12. **CONFERENCES:**

Teams have been aligned into conferences and each must qualify for provincial playoffs through its specified conference. The make-up of each conference is determined on a yearly basis by the SHSAA office and will be published in the spring prior to the fall season.
13. **PLAYOFF DRAW:** The provincial playoff structure for 1A and 2A six-man football will allow for two teams from each conference in the playoffs. These teams will include the conference champions and wild card teams. The wild card teams will include the second-place team in each conference. In a case where there is not a second team in a conference, that spot would be filled by the third team in the conference that the last provincial champion came from. The draw will be made in such a way that no team would play off against a team from their own conference, in the quarter-final or the semi-final rounds by placing teams from mutual conferences on opposite sides of the draw. In the event that two teams from the same conference meet in the provincial final, the number one seed would host the provincial final.

9-MAN FOOTBALL INFORMATION

1. Nine-man football is restricted to those schools that have fewer than 250 boys registered in grades 10 through 12.
2. Any place in the rulebook where the term 12 PLAYERS is used, substitute the term 9 PLAYERS.
3. Any place in the rulebook where reference is made to 20 YARDS (i.e. Hash Marks) substitute with 15 YARDS.
4. For placement of the ball, on all occasions, except on converts, subtract 5 from the indicated number.

5. **THE PLAYING FIELD:**

- a. The field shall be 100 yards long (goal line to goal line) and 50 yards wide.
 - b. End zones shall be 15 yards deep and such boundary line shall be the DEAD line.
 - c. The 20 and 40 yards lines shall be of double thickness.
6. The length of the game shall be 48 minutes of actual playing time, divided into four quarters of 12 minutes each for all playoffs. A 15-minute rest period shall be allowed at the end of the second quarter, or other rest period as the teams do mutually agree on.
 7. At the instant the ball is put into play, at least 5 players of the offensive team must be on the line of scrimmage.
 8. Teams may dress any number of players, but only 48 medals will be provided by the SHSAA for the championship game. Additional medals may be purchased from the SHSAA office if needed.
 9. The centre is an eligible pass receiver if he lines up on the end of the line of scrimmage and is wearing an eligible receiver's number. Any other player on the line, not occupying the outside position is an ineligible receiver.
 10. **CONFERENCES:** All teams have been aligned into a conference and each must qualify for the provincial playoffs through its specified conference. The make-up of each conference is determined on a yearly basis by the SHSAA office to be published in the spring prior to the fall season.
 11. **PLAYOFF DRAW:**
The provincial play-off structure for nine-man football will allow for two teams from each conference, in each classification, in the playoffs. These teams will include the conference champions and wild card teams for each classification. The wild card teams will include the second-place team in each conference. In a case where there is not a second team in a conference, that spot would be filled by the third team in the conference that the last provincial champion came from. The draw will be made in such a way that no team would play off against a team from their own conference, in the quarter-final or the semi-final rounds by placing teams from mutual conferences on opposite sides of the draw. If two teams from the same conference meet in the provincial final, the number one seed would host the provincial final.

12-MAN FOOTBALL INFORMATION

1. The playing time of the game shall be 48 minutes divided into four quarters of 12 minutes. A 15-minute rest period shall be allowed at the end of the second quarter, or other rest period as the teams do mutually agree on.
2. The playoff for 3A and 4A shall be designed annually and be posted on the SHSAA website.
3. Teams may dress any number of players but only 65 medals will be provided by the SHSAA for the championship games. Additional medals may be purchased from the SHSAA office if needed.

IN-GAME IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES:

Effective the 2016 football season, teams are not permitted to use in-game imaging technologies (ex: Hudl Sideline, tablets, smart phones, still photos) during games including half time. This would include any technology that provides instant video replay.