

# 4TH GRADE TACKLE RULES

## FOOTBALL SIZE - PEEWEE SHOTGUN OR PISTOL - NO UNDER CENTER FORMATIONS

### WYSI RULE ON VISORS:

- Eyeshields or visors must be made of a clear, rigid material
- Tinted visors are not allowed, and there are no exceptions to this rule
- If an athlete has a medical need for tinted eye protection, he must wear tinted eyeglasses or athletic goggles

**Playing Field:** Regulation 100-yard field

**Ball Carrier Weight Rule:** All 4th grade players that weigh in at 105 pounds or greater will be restricted to Lineman (non TE) on offense. There will be no position restrictions on defense.

**Coaches on Field:** 1 coach per team

- On-field coach is permitted to call play and align their team
  - Coaches can use play sheets for Weeks 1 and 2. Ideally, kids have learned plays and formations and no visual play sheets are needed for weeks 3 and beyond
- On-field coach is NOT permitted to instruct their team once the teams are set
- On-field coaches must be lined up 5-yds behind their deepest player pre-snap

**Clock:** Four 8-minute quarters / 5-minute half time / 40 second play clock on all plays  
- IHSAA clock rules for stoppage will be used. Most clock stopping events are reiterated below

- PRIMARY CLOCK STOPPING EVENTS
  - (a) Following a touchdown, field goal, touchback or safety.
  - (b) When a forward pass hits the ground.
  - (c) When the runner has gone out of bounds.
  - (d) Following a fourth-down play where a change of possession has occurred.
  - (e) At the end of a play where a flag has been thrown.
  - (f) Timeouts
  - (g) Injuries
  - (h) When a runner is tackled clearly beyond the line-to-gain (first down) stake, inbounds.
    - After a first down is awarded to Team A where the ball becomes dead inbounds, the Referee will start the game clock when the ball is spotted
  - (i) Change of possession
- The try (extra point) that follows a touchdown is not a timed down.

**Timeouts:** Each team is allotted two timeouts per half

**Mercy Rule:** If a team goes up by 25 points or more, the score will freeze and game/outcome score is final. However, the game will run to completion under a running clock.

### **SpecialTeams:**

**Punt:** Must notify the opposing team and the refs that intend to punt.

- **Walkoff:** 20 yard walk off from line of scrimmage – It will be 20 yards regardless of the spot on the field

or

- **Player Punt:** Ref will place the ball at Punter's feet, both teams will get in ready positions, ref will blow the whistle, punter has 5 seconds to get the kick off, defense must keep 9 players within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked, coverage team cannot release until the ball is kicked.

**Kickoff:** *We do not start kickoffs during the season until after Labor Day.* Up to that point, offensive teams will start with the ball marked at their own 40-yd.line. Kickoffs from the 40/receiving team must have 5 players lined up between the 50 & 40.

**PAT:** Can be advanced via rush, pass, or kicking

- The offense has the option of having the ball placed at the 3-yd line for a 1-point conversion, or they can have the ball placed on the 5-yd line for a 2-point conversion.
- If the offense chooses to kick– Both teams lineup but no snap. Line of scrimmage will be on the 3-yd line and ball will be spotted on the 10-yd line, ball will be placed at the holders feet, ref will blow the whistle, holder has 5 seconds to place the ball on the block tee and have kick executed, if no kick within 5 seconds, play called dead and the PAT is unsuccessful. **DEFENSE CANNOT RUSH.** 2 points awarded for a successfully kicked PAT.

**Field Goal:** Must notify the opposing team and the refs that your team intends to kick a field goal.

- No snap – ball will be placed at the holders feet 7 yards off the line of scrimmage, ref will blow the whistle, holder has 5 seconds to place the ball on the block tee and have the kick executed, if there is no kick within 5 seconds, play called dead, and opposition takes possession of the ball at the original line of scrimmage or the 20-yd line if kick crosses goalline.
- 3-points will be awarded for successfully kicking a field goal

**Format:** 11 vs. 11 football

### **Offense:**

- Must have 7 players on the line of scrimmage

- It's encouraged that all down linemen get into 3pt stance but if player is unable then modify to a 2pt stance
- Must always have at least 1 other player besides the QB in the backfield – **No empty formation permitted**
- Motion is permitted
- No hurry up / No Huddle offense not allowed until last two minutes of the 2nd/4th quarter
- No QB Sneaks allowed (QB Draw & QB Dive permitted from shotgun)

**Defense:**

- 4-3 defense ONLY consisting of 4 down linemen, 3 linebackers, 2 corners, and 2 safeties – using a Cover 2 scheme or man
- **Safeties** (TOES) at depth of 10 yards off LOS
- **Linebackers** (TOES) at depth of 5 yards off LOS
- **Cornerbacks** (TOES) at depth of 5 yards off LOS - must set up as wide as the furthest receiver.
- **Defensive Tackles** can line up heads up on the guards or shade the inside or outside shoulder. Must be in a 3 or 4 pt stance. Directly over the center is not permitted.
- **Defensive Ends** can line up in any shade on tackles or tight ends. They need to be in a 3 point stance. 2-POINT STANCES ARE NOT PERMITTED. If in a shade, then they have to be within the framework of the offensive player's body.
- If in a goalline defense with offense inside the 5-yd line or 1-yard to go, safeties can be 5-yards off of LOS, and Cornerbacks and Linebackers 2-yards off LOS.
- **Blitzing** - 1 player (LBs only) may blitz per play. Blitzing backs must blitz from depth. **NO A-GAP BLITZES permitted.**

**Turnovers:** Any player, regardless of weight, is permitted to advance the ball on fumbles or interceptions.

**Tied Game:** Any game tied at the end of regulation will result in overtime

- **Overtime:** Each team will be awarded 4 plays from the 10-yd line. If a team scores, they can go for either a 1 or 2 point conversion. If the game remains tied after each team possesses the ball, the game will be called and ended in a tie. Coin toss will determine who gets first possession.

**Overweight QB Exception** – A player who has shown a skill set to likely develop into a quarterback is permitted to request exception to play QB. Exceptions must be agreed upon by all teams within the division. Players playing with the exception are not permitted to rush the ball. They can handoff, or throw, but are not permitted to cross the LOS. These exceptions should only

be considered in situations where all head coaches agree to it. **Over the limit players MUST play the line or QB, no other offense position will be allowed!**

**GAME RULES RELATED TO HOW MANY PLAYERS ON THE FIELD** - This league plays 11v11. No modifications to the onfield player numbers will be allowed if a team shows up with the minimum number of players to play. Example - Gold Rocks have a roster of 14 but only 11 show up to the game. The game will be played 11v11. If a player gets injured during the game or needs to come out, then the teams will move the game down to 10v10 until that player can return to the game.

#### **POSITIONS IF PLAYING LESS THAN 11 V 11**

##### **10 V 10**

- OFFENSE: 5 OL & 5 Skill Players (QB, RB, TE, or WR). 7 Players need to be on LOS
- DEFENSE - remove a Safety (4 DL, 3 LB @ 5 yards, 2 DB @ 5 yards, 1 S @ 10 yards)

##### **9 V 9**

- OFFENSE: 5 OL & 4 Skill Players (QB, RB, TE or WR). 6 Players need to be on LOS
  - OL are always ineligible receivers even if they are not covered
- DEFENSE: remove a Safety & Linebacker (4DL, 2LB, 2CB, 1S)
  - If no WR is split on their side, CB still needs to be at 5 yards depth and outside widest player on LOS