

Section IV Football

Modified Football Rules

***Rationale***:

* Teaching/coaching similar systems of offense and defensive schemes.
* Infuse similar philosophies as junior varsity and varsity levels.
* Consistency in teaching techniques of individual positions.
* Safely close the gap between junior high, “modified” football rules and NFHS rules employed at the high school.
* Establish a more natural progression in the game of football from modified to varsity.

***Special Teams***:

* NO kickoffs – ball to be placed on the 35-yard line.
* Dead ball punt rule. The spot of the ball is where the defensive player gains control of the ball.
* NO live rush on PAT kick attempts.
* 2 points for a kick, 1 point for a pass or run.

***Defense Rules Restrictions***:

* Defenses must employ a 4-, 5-, or 6-man front.
* 4- and 6-man fronts must be balanced and aligned head-up tackle-to-tackle (cannot cover the center).
* A 5-man front may be employed.
* Defensive linemen, once aligned and in a stance cannot stem prior to the snap of the ball.
* No blitzing allowed. Linebackers must be stationary and a 3-yard minimum depth at the snap of the ball.
* Linebackers and defensive backs (second level players) must be a minimum of 3-yards from the line-of-scrimmage (LOS) at the snap of the ball.
* There can be no more than 8 players aligned inside the free blocking zone, “tackle box” at the snap of the ball. (This area is defined by: the free blocking zone/tackle box is the rectangular area extending laterally 4-yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3-yards deep from the LOS.)
* There can be no more than 6 players on the LOS (within 2-yards of the ball).
* Press coverage and contact at the line-of scrimmage is not allowed against a receiver. (Exception: you may press and contact is allowed with any eligible receiver within 5-yards of the offensive tackle.)

***Offensive Rules Restrictions***:

* Motion (including shifting) is allowed provided the player does not cross the middle of the formation, defined as the center prior to the snap of the ball.
* The offense must employ three players on the line-of-scrimmage on both sides of the center (NO unbalanced line).
* There is a maximum of 1 yard splits between linemen, tackle-to-tackle.