

## Football 2020

September 8, 2020	First Practice
September 8, 2020	Practice helmets and shoulder pads (if player has had 2 days in helmets)
September 10, 2020	Full Gear
September 12, 2020	First Scrimmage
7 days prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> game	Eligibility Due
September 25, 2020	Week 1
November 7, 2020	Report Qualifiers for Playoffs (All Classes)
November 13, 2020	Playoffs Begin
November 20, 2020	Last day to play additional game if you did not play in playoffs

### Important Reminders:

- September 5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> are closed to all football activities
- All players must have two (2) days in helmets before being in shoulder pads and helmets. If they get two days in helmets between August 17<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>, they can start September 8<sup>th</sup> in helmets and shoulder pads.
- All players must have two (2) days in helmets and shoulder pads before they can put on full gear.
- All players must have two (2) days in full gear before being able to scrimmage.
- Hand Shields and stand up dummies can be used on September 8<sup>th</sup> for those players who are in helmets and shoulder pads. Players in helmets only from September 8<sup>th</sup> on, cannot participate in drills using hand shields and dummies until they are in shoulder pads.
- Helmets, shoulder pads and other personal equipment should be sanitized daily.
- Clothing items such as jerseys and pants should be washed as frequently as possible.
- All football equipment used during practice should be sanitized as frequently as possible.
- Schools should run their scrimmages as close to game like as possible to give officials a chance to prepare for the season. While not always ideal to scrimmage this way, please remember that scrimmages are the only opportunity officials have to prepare for the first game(s).
- Face coverings worn by players during a contest should be a single solid color or may have a school or manufacturers logo. Face coverings worn by players should not have any slogans, words, messages and/or any words or pictures that are considered offensive.

## **Officials for Contests**

- Schools are to provide a secure locker room or similar changing area where officials can change, store their personal items, use the restroom and shower. Preferably this area will allow for 6ft. social distancing. If this area does not allow for 6ft social distancing, then the host school needs to notify the officiating crew the room does not allow for 6ft social distancing so that the crew can make necessary adjustments for this prior to arriving on site.
- Schools are to make sure the officials locker rooms are clean and sanitized to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Coaches and players should maintain 6ft. social distancing from officials throughout the contest when possible. Obviously when the ball is live, this is not going to be possible for those on the field of play.
- Coaches should maintain 6ft. social distancing when discussing anything with an official to include but not limited to: pregame conferences, timeouts, penalties or clarification on a rule.
- Please be mindful that adjustments to dates/days of games may be needed to ensure that we have enough officials to adequately cover each contest.

## **2020-21 Football Considerations**

### **Playing Rules Considerations:**

- The Ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the manufacturer
- Ball holders (Ball Boys) should maintain a distance of at least six feet at all times.
- A single charged time-out maybe extended to a maximum of two minutes in length to allow for proper sanitation and social distancing to occur.
- The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes.(It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)
- The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick
- Cloth face coverings are permissible. (Solid Color or contains school or manufacturers logo.)
- Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest.
- Gloves for players are permissible but must comply with rule 1-5-2b and meet NOCSAE
- Tooth and Mouth Protectors should be attached to the helmet on all players.

## **Other Considerations**

- Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.
- When the contest is over, all players, coaches and officials should leave the field immediately.
- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- Cloth face coverings may be worn by all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.
- Dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.