

SUBURBAN WEST JR FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENTAL LEAGUE RULES

2008

LEAGUE RULES

Our mission as a league is to develop players for our respective high school football programs while developing character and discipline. Our responsibility as a league is to ensure the safety and well being of the players on the field. In the formation of these rules, and in the settlement of any disputes, these must remain our primary considerations. Developing character and sportsmanship through modeling by our coaches is a key to success. Coaches are present to coach, referees to officiate, and parents to cheer in a positive manner. Promotion of sportsmanship is vital to our success. Winning is great, but secondary to the well being of players and the development of character and discipline.

The following rules represent an agreement between gentlemen coordinators who are acting as board members for the Suburban West league. Each area's organization, including coordinators, coaches, parents, and players, agree on their honor to abide by them and uphold them for the good of the league. Failure by any party from an organization within the Suburban West league to abide by these rules, as determined by the majority of the area coordinators, will result in suspensions and a forfeiture of any games involved. Continued failure to honor the league's decisions will result in all other areas removing the offending team or organization from their schedule, thus effectively expelling them from the league for the remainder of the season.

1. Areas agree to not to have any players from outside their school's attendance area. Teams are allowed to have players from private schools, as long as the player resides in the school's attendance area.
2. Areas agree to not cut players from their rosters based on the players' abilities for the purpose of strengthening their team.
3. Areas agree that if they have enough players at any grade level to split the squad, they will attempt to create two equally competitive teams. Teams, if they split their squad, will avoid creating "All-star A" teams and "B" teams. Team should break into 2 teams at (X) players. We all understand that this will weaken teams but this is across the board to keep competition fair and equitable and develop all players not just the gifted athletes at this level. In 2007, the league added that splitting of teams is acceptable as long as the 7th and 8th grade schedules remain balanced or even in number of teams.
4. The home team's area coordinator, or an appointed alternate, will be on-site during all home games. That coordinator is the league's representative and has the final say regarding league rule interpretations for that day. The referees will follow the decision of the area coordinator in charge. **In 2007, added that each coach and coordinator shall have a full copy of the league rules on hand at each game.**
5. The "game" season starts on the Saturday after Labor Day and will end the first weekend in November. Organizations can organize any number of "B" games and participate in Jamborees, at their discretion, ensuring to abide by all other league rules and guidelines.
6. Any league rule changes must be agreed to by the majority of the **(15)** charter member coordinators. **Updated in 2008.**
7. Issues between areas involving players, parents or coaches will be resolved by the coordinators of the areas involved; therefore, all communications between member organizations shall go thru coordinators for any disputes or issues. Coaches may schedule extra games, so long as area coordinators are involved and aware of the extra activities. If area coordinators are unable to reach a resolution, they will mutually agree that another area coordinator will decide the issue. The decision by the outside area coordinator is final and shall be accepted without further appeal.
8. Practice start date will coincide with the MSHSAA High school start date. Teams are allowed to hold two consecutive weeks (10 days) of summer football camps not exceeding 2 hours per day and without pads and/or helmets where attendance is considered mandatory. An unlimited number of optional team meetings, get-togethers, practices, and touch or flag games in the off-season are permitted provided they are not in pads or helmets.
9. Teams will be grouped by grade with the following age requirements, extrapolated from the MSHSAA rules:
6th Grade – Cannot turn 13 before July 1.
7th Grade – Cannot turn 14 before July 1.
8th Grade – Cannot turn 15 before July 1.
10. Areas agree to consider our league's primary purpose of player development and responsibility for safety regarding older and/or larger players. It may be best for these players to have better competition at the next grade level, the same way the high school promotes freshman players to JV and plays underclassmen on the Varsity.

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11. Areas agree to conduct all games according to the game rules spelled out in this document.
12. B games. See Game Rules E. This discussion was tabled in lieu of the official schedule.
13. "Mandatory" Coaches Clinic. League agreed that each area coordinator is responsible for informing all coaches in their organization of the rules, and to provide copies of the rules to each and every coach, to help eliminate confusion.
14. NYSCA sessions were briefly discussed. No official actions taken for 2007 to date. If we held this type of session as a League, Wentzville Parks and Rec. is certified to hold these sessions.
15. Referee Concerns (to potentially be addressed in a mandatory referee clinic held by our league, along with Bob Mitchell, Ref. coordinator) Members agreed to not hold this type of meeting officially in 2007 and offered suggestions of providing copies of the game rules to each referee prior to each set of games for the day, and to remind the officials of the area coordinator being the one in charge, for the entire day.
16. The league always discusses new teams that MAY want to add to our league. Group agreed in principle that it should be done in pairs, so the 7th and 8th grade games remain on a balanced schedule. **Clayton and Webster Groves added in 2007. Francis Howell, Fort Zumwalt East and Ladue added in 2008.**
17. Sportsmanship. Coaches must be leaders in this area, and insist on this from any parent or adult that is on the field. Keep parents away from the sidelines, by at least 10 yards, so there are no issues that result from emotions that can arise at a football game.
18. Game times. The group discussed moving the first game of the day to 9am, vs. 8:30 to allow the first game of the day to begin a bit later. Every attempt shall be made to have the first game off the day begin at 9:00am. All rainouts need to be announced by the local coordinator no later than 1.5 hours prior to first game of the day.
19. Crossover games, North vs. South, will be held the last game of the season in November..

GAME RULES

A. The NFHS Rule book, supplemented by the MSHSAA rules, will be used by our league for all games, except as noted below.

B. Game start times: 9:00AM, 10:30AM, 12:00 Noon. (Referees should be available 15 minutes prior to the start of the first game, at a minimum)

C. Game fields are clearly lined, have yard markers, end zone markers, and goal post pads.

D. Game balls: 6th Grade – Junior Size, 7th and 8th Grade – Intermediate Size.

E. "B" Games: Scheduled at the convenience and discretion of each team. ¼ of the players on the team, rounded down, based upon who had the most playing time in the most recent "A" game, shall not dress in pads for the B game. Of the remaining players, no "A" player may play in the position they normally play on offense or defense, nor play a similar position. This means the skilled position players may play line and vice versa, and on defense linebackers and defensive backs may play line and vice versa. No player who starts on either offense or defense in "A" games should start or play more than a player who does not start in "A" games. Exceptions to these "B" game rules due to injury, low numbers, or other can be addressed and agreed to by the opposing coaches before the game.

F. Highlighted Rules:

6th grade games are 8 minutes, 7th grade games are 8 minutes, and 8th grade games are 8 minutes.

A successful kicked extra point is (2) points. A successful play from scrimmage is one (1) point.

G. Under two minutes remaining in the half/game, if a team takes a knee, it is understood that they are running out the clock and will subsequently take a knee for the remaining downs in the series. Running a play thereafter is considered unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in a 15 yard penalty.

H. All questions and disagreements about other game rules are resolved by using NFHS/MSHSAA rules.

I. Home team provides referees and pays for them.

J. Games tied after regulation shall play ONE overtime sequence, each team, from the selected 25 yard line. Ties after one overtime sequence will remain as ties.

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Suburban West Jr Football Developmental League Members for 2008

North conference

South Conference

Francis Howell North
Francis Howell Central
Fort Zumwalt South
Fort Zumwalt West
Francis Howell
Fort Zumwalt East
Ladue
Team 16 - TBD

Oakville
Mehlville
NWAA
Lindbergh
Kirkwood
Parkway South
Webster Groves
Clayton

Each of the above commits to fielding a 7th and 8th grade team for 2007.

6th grade teams planned for 2008.

Francis Howell North - ???
Francis Howell Central
Fort Zumwalt West
Francis Howell
Fort Zumwalt East

Oakville
Mehlville
Lindbergh
Parkway South
NWAA

Each 7th and 8th grade team will have a schedule that includes 1 or 2 Non conference games to begin the season; will then have 6 or 7 conference games to determine the placement for the final Cross-over game to end the season. **Conference games only** determine the seeding for the Cross-over games. Tie breakers would include, head to head conference games, and High School District Playoff rules and scoring. +/- 13 max per game, and +/- 1 for OT Win or Loss.

Equally seeded teams from the North and the South play each other at the end of the season in the Cross-over game, held the first Saturday in November to end the season. **Teams that do not report the scores to the league website by 5:00pm of the Sunday for each weekend will be recorded as a loss, to allow the league to maintain current information for all.**
