

FOOTBALL – BOYS'

1. SEASON OF PLAY

Boys = Fall Season

2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Junior Level Senior Level

3. CLASSIFICATION

Competition shall be conducted in two age classifications:

- i) **Senior:** The individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- ii) **Junior:** The individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held. Only students in their first two years of high school, based on the date they entered grade nine, will be eligible for junior team competition. For further clarification of junior eligibility, please refer to the NCAA Constitution. **EXCEPTION:** a student who has been accelerated one year in elementary school shall be allowed to play at the junior level for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years in the first three (3) years of his/her high school career. The student shall meet the above age requirement and documentation of the acceleration shall be provided with the eligibility sheet.

4. ELIGIBILITY

a) Team/School Eligibility: To represent a school in any SOSSA/OFSAA bound sport coordinate by the NCAA, a school must:

- I. Conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of three (3) practices (on field or dry land) per week, or a minimum of two (2) practices per week (if there is a holiday) from September until the Championships under the supervision of a teacher-coach as certified by the principal.
- II. Participate in the NCAA approved league if one is held.
- III. Participate in the NCAA championship or qualifying event. If neither is held, then the team must play a minimum of six (6) games against Ontario High School 23-man football teams.
- IV. Use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits the right to participate in NCAA/SOSSA and/or OFSAA Championships.
- V. In accordance with Rowan's Law, have all coaches and coaching personnel confirm, that they have reviewed the concussion awareness resource within the school year.

b) Individual Eligibility: To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the NCAA a student must:

- I. Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws, and Playing Regulations of the NCAA.
- II. Be certified as eligible by the principal of the school.
- III. Meet the following age requirements:
Eligibility for Senior Football: The individual's birth certificate indicates that she has not reached her 19th birthday by January 1st, prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
ELIGIBILITY FOR JUNIOR BASKETBALL: The individual's birth certificate indicates that she has not reached her 16th birthday by August 31st, prior to the start of the school year in which the competition

is held. Only students in their first two years of high school, based on the date they entered grade nine, will be eligible for junior team competition. EXCEPTION: a student who has been accelerated one year in elementary school shall be allowed to play at the junior level for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years in the first three (3) years of his/her high school career. The student shall meet the above age requirement and documentation of the acceleration shall be provided with the eligibility sheet.

- IV. Be in Grades 9-12.
- V. Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (OFSAA By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
- VI. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (OFSAA By-Law 5, Section 4(g)).
- VII. Participated as a member of a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and competitions.
- VIII. No player can participate in two contact football leagues at the same time/season.

5.ELIGIBILITY SHEETS

Eligibility lists are to be entered in the OFSAA HUB at least 24 hours prior to the team's first game.

Each team may submit a maximum of fifty-six (56) players and up to nine (9) team personnel on their eligibility list. Only participants on the eligibility list may represent the school and/or attend practices and games.

6.GAME SHEETS

At the beginning of each game, both home and away team coaches are responsible for providing to the scorer's table, a copy of their game day roster which includes a list of all players who are playing in that game and numbers for each of those players.

7.GAME TIME

Due to the random availability of official crews, game start times will vary, especially if a double header is scheduled.

If a school would like a game time to be earlier or later than the times listed on the schedule, the team must have consent from their own principal as well as approval from the opposing team's coach and principal before reaching out to the sport convenor. Sport convenor approval and referee availability will be final determining factor.

Home games may be played on a turf field without the consent of the visiting team.

8.REPORTING SCORES

The home team will input the final and half time scores on to the NCAA website, by noon the day after the game.

Home team is responsible for writing up the game sheet and submitting it on the website.

Score sheet should be signed by either the official or the opposing team's coach.

If no score sheet is submitted, the official score will be deemed to be the one sent to the convenor. In this scenario, there will be no “official” half-time score for Tie Breaking Procedures.

9.HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES ON GAME DAY

- a) Prepare the field, which includes lining the field.
- b) Prepare and supply minor officials (scorekeeper, timer, chain gang, etc.).
- c) Responsible for having NCAA scoresheets available.
- d) Input the score and scoresheet on to the NCAA website by noon the day after the game.
- e) Provide Canadian University approved balls for the game.
- f) As of April 2011, both sets of players’ benches must be on the same side of the playing field. Spectator areas will be on the opposite sideline of the players’ benches. Where this cannot physically be possible, the players’ bench areas must be clearly defined, and spectator areas are not to be in those areas.

10.UNIFORMS

All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos.

Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the attention of the coach and sport convenor.

Uniforms shall conform to the Canadian University rules. Players shall wear identical football-type jerseys and pants and socks. All uniforms must be intact at the start of each game. It is recommended that all teams have numbers conforming to those accepted positions.

There cannot be identical numbers on the set of team jerseys.

Note: Any team qualifying for the OFSAA Football Bowl Series must have access to a second (2nd) set of uniforms.

11.EQUIPMENT

All eye shields (visors) must be clear. Coloured or tinted eye shields (visors) are not allowed.

Any knee braces must be approved by the head official prior to the start of the game.

Any communication devices within the helmet, or on any part of the athlete is not permitted.

No metal cleats are allowed. Rubber or molded cleats only.

Drones may not be used in the field of play.

12.SUPERVISION

Teams must be supervised in accordance with By-Law 6, Section 1 of the OFSAA Constitution.

13.OFFICIALS

All officials must be accredited.

Each participating school will be billed at the conclusion of the football season. The designated amount for officials will be a calculation determined by the NCAA convenor and invoiced by the NCAA convenor.

Schools are responsible for booking and payment of officials for exhibition games.

14.MEDICAL

An athletic therapist (first response) shall be present at each NCAA football game.

Each participating school will be billed at the conclusion of the football season. The designated amount for EMS will be a calculation determined by the NCAA convenor and invoiced by the NCAA convenor.

Schools are responsible for booking and payment of officials for exhibition games.

15.OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

- a) NCAA policies first, then the Canadian Amateur Rule Book for Tackle Football
- b) The Canadian Amateur Rule Book for Tackle Football shall govern play at the OFSAA Bowl, OFSAA Regional, SOSSA and NCAA, with the following exception at the NCAA level:
 - o Field dimension may vary from school to school.
- c) For both NCAA junior and senior football leagues:
 - o No tie games- follow CIS/CFL rule.
 - o Start at the 35-yard line where each team gets a series of plays until one team breaks the tie. Two (2) time outs per half shall be allowed for each team. Time outs shall be for one minute. Players must go to the bench. Coaches may not enter the field of play unless attending to an injury.
- d) Teams shall be permitted three downs in attempting to achieve first down yardage (10 yards, or 10 meters) depending on the home teams(s) equipment.
- e) There shall be a one-yard restraining area at the line of scrimmage.
- f) On any play, blocking above the waist is illegal except in the close line play area by a player who is occupying a position in this area at the snap of the ball.
- g) It is illegal for a player to participate unless the mouth guard is being worn in the proper position by a player. Failure to wear a mouth guard shall result in a team warning. Second and subsequent infractions will result in a loss of five (5) yards or five (5) meters from where the ball was put into play. Continuous subsequent infractions will be ruled as objectionable conduct.

16.TIMING OF GAMES

- I. Teams shall play four (4) quarters of twelve (12) minutes each. 1st and 3rd quarters are 12 minutes of straight time; unless there is a time out, injury time out, penalty on the play, long gain, incomplete pass (for 2014-2015 football season passed on October 28th, 2013 NCAA semi-annual meeting) and/or touchdown scored.
- II. 2nd and 4th quarters are 12 minutes with the last 3 minutes STOP TIME; ie time stops at the whistle that ends the play and starts when blown in by the referee signal.

- III. The last minute of each quarter is indicated by a raised red flag.
- IV. In the 2nd and 4th quarters, the timer will, at the nine-minute mark, make the head referee aware that there are three minutes left in said quarter.

17. LEAGUE AND PLAYOFF FORMAT

The format for league play and playoffs will be determined at the Program Chair Meeting. All schools participating are to send a Program Chair or staff member to the meeting otherwise forfeit all rights for input in the league and playoff format.

18. GAME FORFEITURES

The following policies are in place for league game forfeitures:

- a) Should a team forfeit a game with less than 48 hours' notice, all costs associated with the game shall be charged to the forfeiting school.
- b) Should a team forfeit a game, the forfeiting team will be given a loss because of the forfeit.
- c) Should a team forfeit two (2) games during regular season play, the team shall be removed from the league and all points earned in games played against that team shall be removed from league standings.
- d) A team that forfeits a game during the regular season loses all rights with regards to tie breaking procedures. (ex. if the team is tied for 3rd, the team will be relegated to 4th place).
- e) A team that forfeits a playoff game shall also forfeit the right to play any further playoff games at the current or subsequent level of playoffs (ex. when two teams qualify for SOSSA). (April 2016)

19. LEAGUE STANDINGS- TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

These procedures shall be used when determining a playoff position when a league schedule leads to playoffs:

- a) Record between tied teams.
- b) Record against teams higher in the standings (1 above, then 2 above, etc.).
- c) Record against teams lower in the standings (1 below, then 2 below, etc.).
- d) Points given up in the first half against teams higher in the standings (1 above, 2 above, etc.)
- e) Points given up in the first half against teams lower in the standings (1 below, 2 below, etc.)
- f) Other sport specific rules agreed to by Program Chairs.
 - I. Coin flip to determine playoff position only. The convenor will perform the coin flip. The school that is alphabetically highest will have heads in the coin flip. The convenor will notify schools of the results.
 - II. Playoff on a neutral field/court or a coin toss for home field if both coaches agree, if it is to determine the final playoff position.
 - III. In the event of a four-way tie, the convenor in consultation with the NCAA Executive and the schools involved will determine a tie-breaking procedure.

20. TEAMS ADVANCING TO SOSSA/OFSAA

See SOSSA Constitution and By-Laws: Page 1-25

See **SOSSA Football Playing Regulations for SOSSA Tournament Format.**

The SOSSA championship will be held in the fall at least one week prior to OFSAA.

Check ofsa.ca for OFSAA Championship dates and OFSAA playing regulations.