

WIDE WORLD OF INDOOR SPORTS

Montville, CT



www.wideworldofindoorsports.com



Youth Flag Football League Rules 2020

Youth League rules are subject to change at the discretion of the League Director at any time during the course of the season. Any changes will be sent to the primary contacts / Coach on file with the team.

PLAYER RULES

- No Jewelry is permitted
- NO gum is permitted in the facility
- Team is required to provide their own game ball
- NO spitting
- SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES

I. Game

- a. At the start of the game, the ref will defer to the Home team for their election to start with or without the ball.
- b. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has three (3) plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has three (3) plays to score a touchdown.
- c. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.
- f. Teams change sides after the first half. Possession changes to the team that started the game on defense.

II. Terminology

Boundary Lines	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
Line of Scrimmage	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
Line-to-Gain	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.

Rush Line	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
Offense	The team with possession of the ball.
Defense	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
Passer	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
Rusher	The defensive player assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass
Downs (1-2-3)	The offensive team has three attempts or "downs" to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score
Live Ball	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
Dead Ball	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play
Whistle	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for a timeout, halftime or the end of the game
Inadvertent Whistle	Official's whistle that is performed in error.
Charging	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
Flag Guarding	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier's flags by still arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner's flags with a hand or arm.
Shovel Pass	A legal pitch attempted beyond the line of scrimmage.
Lateral	A backward or sideways toss of the ball by the ball-carrier.
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	A rude, confrontational or offensive behavior or language

- III. Eligibility
 - a. All players must have a Dash account with the following completed:
 - i. Signed Waiver
 - ii. Current Membership
 - iii. Photo on File
 - iv. DOB verified in the system
- IV. Equipment
 - a. Teams must wear matching color shirts / jerseys.
 - b. Flag Football belts are provided or players can wear their own.
 - c. Each team must provide a game ball for when they are on offense.
 - d. Players may wear flat bottomed sneakers, cleats or turf shoes. Metal cleats are NOT permitted.
 - e. Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metals are not allowed.
 - f. Players must remove all jewelry, hats and do-rags.
 - g. Player's jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.
 - h. Players may not wear shorts or pants with pockets.
 - i. Games will not be deleted for a player to fix their flags. Flag belts cannot be the same colors as their shorts or pants.
- V. Scoring
 - a. Touchdown: 6 points
 - b. PAT (point after touchdown) 1 point (5-yard line) or 2 points (10-yard line)
 - i. Note: 1 point PAT is pass only; 2 point PAT can be run or pass
 - ii. A team that scores a touchdown must declare whether it wishes to attempt a 1-point conversion (from the 5-yard line) or a 2-point conversion (from the 10-yard line)
 - c. Safety: 2 points
 - i. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his/her own end zone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, their knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the end zone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone.
 - d. After one team is winning by 28 points or more, the trailing team will start all possessions at the beginning of the no run zone before midfield (or at the spot of an interception if it is nearer to the end zone the trailing team is trying to score into) until the margin becomes 27 points or less.
 - e. Forfeits are scored 28-0 for the winning team.
- VI. Coaches
 - a. Coaches are expected to adhere to their coaching guidelines set forth and set the highest example of sportsmanship for the players.
 - b. There is a maximum of 3 coaches permitted on the sideline. It is the coaches responsibility to ensure the only individuals on the sideline are the coaches on their team's roster and rostered players. Players from other teams, siblings and parents must watch the game from the viewing area in the mezzanine or hallway.

VII. Timing and Overtime

- a. Games are played on a 40 minute continuous clock with two 20-minute halves. Clock stops only for timeouts and injuries.
- b. Halftime is one minute.
- c. Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive a 10-second warning. Failure to do so will result in a delay-of-game penalty being assessed.
- d. Each team has one 30-second timeout per half.
- e. Officials can stop the clock at their discretion.
- f. In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play.
- g. Regular season games can end in a tie. Overtime will only be utilized during playoffs.
- h. The following Overtime rules for playoffs will be enforced:
 - i. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense's 5-yard line for one point or the defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two- point play of their own.
 1. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the 5-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 2. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
 - ii. Both teams must "go for two" from the 10-yard line starting with the third round of overtime.
 - iii. The final points earned by the winning team in the final overtime will be added onto the winning team's total score. The losing team will not receive any additional points.
 - iv. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
 - v. Teams are permitted one (1) 30-second timeout.

VIII. Live Ball / Dead Ball

- a. The ball is live at the snap of the ball and remains live until the official whistles the ball dead.
- b. The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage.
 - i. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on offense enters the neutral zone. The play will continue if the defense is in the neutral zone. The official will announce "Free Play." In regard to the neutral zone, the official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. A player who gains possession in the air is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play.

- d. The defense may not mimic the offensive team signals by trying to confuse the offensive players, while the quarterback is calling out signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
- e. Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.
- f. Any official can whistle the play dead.
- g. Play is ruled “dead” when:
 - i. The ball is snapped, caught by the QB and dropped. If the ball hits the ground on the bad snap before the QB catches it, it is live.
 - ii. The ball-carrier’s flag is pulled.
 - iii. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
 - iv. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
 - v. The ball-carrier’s knee or arm hits the ground.
 - vi. The ball-carrier’s flag falls out.
 - vii. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
 - viii. The 7 second pass clock expires
 - ix. Inadvertent whistle.
- h. In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:
 - i. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
 - ii. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.
- i. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official’s rule interpretation. Coaches should approach the referee in a respectful manner. If the official’s ruling is correct, the team will be charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout will not be charged and the proper ruling will be enforced.

IX. Running

- a. The ball is spotted where the runner’s feet are when the flag is pulled, not where the ball-carrier has the ball. Forward progress will be measured by the player’s front foot.
- b. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball. The quarterback is the offensive player who receives the snap.
- c. Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must be behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs.
 - i. “Center sneak” play is no longer allowed. The QB is not allowed to handoff to the center on the first handoff of the play.
- d. Absolutely NO laterals of any kind.
- e. No-run Zones are located 5 yards before each end zone and 5 yards on either side of midfield are designed to avoid short-yardage power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in these zones if the subsequent line is LIVE (Reminder: Each offensive team approaches only TWO no-run zones in each drive – one 5 yards from midfield to gain the first down and one 5 yards from the goal line to score a TD).
- f. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- g. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

- h. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
 - i. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
 - j. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
 - k. No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.
 - l. Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. No running with the ball-carrier.
 - m. Flag obstruction – all jerseys MUST be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.
 - n. In the event of a defensive player breaking the neutral zone a “Free Play” will occur. The team can then take the result of the play or the penalty assessment.
- X. Passing
- a. All passes must be from behind the line of scrimmage, thrown forward and received beyond the line of scrimmage.
 - i. All passes that do not cross the line of scrimmage, whether received or not, are illegal forward passes.
 - ii. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. Pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage.
 - b. The quarterback has a seven-second “pass clock.” If a pass is not thrown within the seven seconds, the play is dead, the down is consumed and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage. Once the ball is handed off, the 7-second rule is no longer in effect.
 - i. If the QB is standing in the end zone at the end of the 7-second clock, the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage (LOS).
 - c. If the quarterback is standing in the end zone at the end of the 7-second clock, it is a sack.
 - d. Interceptions are returnable on PAT.
- XI. Receiving
- a. All players are eligible to receive passes (including the quarterback if the ball has been handed off behind the line of scrimmage).
 - b. Only one player is allowed in motion at a time. All motion must be parallel to the line of scrimmage and no motion is permitted toward the line of scrimmage.
 - c. A player must have at least one foot inbounds when making a reception.
 - d. In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.
 - e. Interceptions change the possession of the ball at the point of interception. Interceptions are the only changes of possession that do not start on the 5-yard line.
 - f. Interceptions are returnable but not on conversions after touchdowns.
- XII. Rushing the Passer
- a. All players who rush the passer must be a minimum of seven yards from the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped. Any number of players can rush the quarterback. Players not rushing the quarterback can defend the line of scrimmage.

- b. Once the ball is handed off, the seven yard rule no longer is in effect and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. A special marker, or the referee, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position with the official on every play.
 - i. A legal rush is:
 - 1. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage
 - 2. A rush from anywhere on the field AFTER the ball has been handed off by the quarterback
 - 3. If a rusher leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7 yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - 4. If a rusher leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the quarterback.
 - ii. A penalty may be called if:
 - 1. The rusher leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - 2. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down)
 - 3. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Special circumstances:
 - 1. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
 - 2. Teams are not required to identify their rusher before the play.
- d. Players rushing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.
- e. More than one player can blitz as long as they start 7 yards back.
- f. The offense cannot impede the rusher in any way. The rusher has the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the “path or line” is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense’s responsibility to avoid the rusher. Any disruption to the rusher’s path and / or contact will result in an impeding the rusher penalty. Blindside blocks (crack back blocks) are not permitted.
- g. A sack occurs if the quarterback’s flags are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback’s feet are when the flag is pulled.
 - i. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team’s end zone.

XIII. Flag Pulling

- a. A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.
- b. Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

- c. It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.
 - d. If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player must be touched to end the play.
 - e. A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off a player who is not in possession of the ball. The first offense will result in a verbal warning. The second offense will result in an assessment of Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
 - f. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender's access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey.
- XIV. Formations
- a. Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and up to four players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.
 - i. One player at a time may go in motion 1-yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
 - ii. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.
 - b. Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.
 - c. The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.
- XV. Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- a. If the referee witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. **FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**
 - b. Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player(s) will be ejected from the game.
 - c. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
 - d. Ball-carriers **MUST** make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
 - e. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.
 - f. Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:
 - i. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
 - ii. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
 - iii. Compliment **ALL** players, not just one child or team.
 - g. Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:
 - i. Defense +10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down.
 - ii. Offense -10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down.
- XVI. Penalties
- a. General
 - i. The referee will call all penalties.
 - ii. Referees determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.

- iii. All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (Spot fouls).
- iv. Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
- v. Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
- vi. Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
- vii. Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

b. Defensive Spot Fouls

Defensive pass interference	Automatic first down
Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down

c. Offensive Spot Fouls

Screening, blocking or running with the ball	5 yards and loss of down
Charging	5 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	5 yards and loss of down

d. Defensive penalties

Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards and automatic first down
Defensive Unsportsmanlike Conduct	+10 yards and automatic first down
Offside	+5 yards from line of scrimmage & automatic first down
Illegal rush (starting from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage & automatic first down
Illegal Flag Pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage & automatic first down
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage & automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards from line of scrimmage & automatic first down

e. Offensive penalties

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards and loss of down
Offside / false start	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal forward pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Delay of game	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the rusher	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down

