

Regina Youth Flag Football League Winter Rules

Player Attire

- Cleats are allowed but must be rubber (no metal tips).
- **Players must wear league issued shorts and jerseys must be always tucked in.**
- Before the beginning of each play, players' flags must be at the sides and properly attached.
- Baseball Caps and jewelry of any kind is not permitted on the field of play.

Field Dimensions and Markings

- Length: 45 yards
- Width: 23 yards
- End Zones: 10 yards deep
- No-running zones: Must be marked 5 yards from midfield and the end zone.
- Parents are designated to the bleachers

Scoring

- Touchdown: 6 points
- Extra point: 1 point (played from 5-yard line)
- 2 points (played from 10-yard line)
- Safety: 2 points
- A win constitutes 2 pts, a tie 1pt, a loss 0 pts

Note: An interception return to opponent's end zone on any extra-point play by the defense will result in the defense scoring 2 points plus gaining possession for the next series at its own five-yard line.

Number of Players

- Teams consist of 10-12 players (5 on the field at a time).
- Teams may play with a minimum of four (4) players.
- If less than 4 players are available, the game is cancelled and the team without enough players will forfeit

Timing/Overtime

- Game length is 50 minutes running time (two halves, 25 minutes each). If the score remains tied at the end of regulation, a tie will be rewarded with each team receiving one point
- Each time the ball is spotted the offense has 30 seconds to snap the ball.
- **Each team has 1 x 60-second time outs per half.** The clock stops during a time out. These cannot be carried over to the second half.
- Officials can stop the clock at their discretion. (i.e., if there's an injury)
- The teams will be warned when there are two minutes left to play in both halves. The game cannot end on a defensive penalty.
- There will be no halftime period, just a quick change of field for the 2nd half.

IN PLAY RULES

Possession

- The HOME team starts with the ball.
- The offensive team takes possession of the ball on the 5-yard line and has three plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, if the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team takes over on the 5-yard line.
 - IF A PLAYER'S FLAG IS PULLED IN THE ENDZONE IT IS NOT A SAFETY. THE BALL COMES BACK TO THE GOALLINE. THERE ARE NO SAFETIES.
- If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from the 5-yard line.
- An automatic first down by penalty will overrule the other requirements regarding three plays to make either a first down or score.
- All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the 5-yard line.
- Teams change sides at half time
- **One pass MUST be made in any three plays of possession. Meaning if play #1 - run, play #2 – run, play #3 must be a pass.**
- **Any given player can only score THREE (3) offensive touchdowns per game. If a player who has scored three offensive touchdowns in the current game scores a fourth touchdown, the ball is brought back to the line of scrimmage and the down is replayed. The first time no penalty is applied if it occurs afterwards a 5yd loss and Loss of Down penalty will be applied.**

Running

- To start the play, the ball must be snapped from the center to the quarterback.
- The center is the player who gives the ball to the quarterback via a snap. The center cannot take a direct handoff back from the quarterback (no center sneak play).
- The quarterback is the player who receives the ball directly from the snap.
- The quarterback cannot run with the ball past the line of scrimmage.
- An offence may use multiple handoffs behind the line of scrimmage. Only backward or lateral handoffs are allowed during a down.
- **ALL HANDOFFS MUST BE BEHIND THE QB, NOT IN FRONT OF THEM (NO ZONE READ TYPE PLAYS)**
- Tosses or sweeps behind the line of scrimmage are allowed and are running plays. Downfield tosses are not permitted. Once a player has possession of the ball beyond the line of scrimmage, any loss of possession will be blown dead by the official.
- "No-running zones" are located 5 yards from midfield and each end zone. When the ball is on or inside the 5-yard line going towards the opponent's midfield and end zone, the offense cannot use a running play to cross the line of scrimmage. If a run play occurs within the 5yd no-run zone, the play will be blown dead and a loss of down will occur.
- Any player who takes a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- All defensive players are eligible to rush once the ball has been handed off, tossed, or there is a play-action fake or fake handoff.
- Spinning is allowed, but offensive players cannot leave their feet to avoid a defensive player (no diving). If a player leaves their feet, the play will be blown dead by the referee & the ball will be placed from the spot where the player left his/her feet. It can also result in a turnover on downs (if on 3rd down).
- No diving is allowed by an offensive player. If a player dives from his feet. The play will be blown dead by the referee & the ball will be placed from the spot where the player left his/her feet. It can also result in a turnover on downs (if on 3rd down).
- The ball is spotted where the ball carrier's feet are when the flag is pulled, not where the ball is.
- **It is up to the ball carrier to avoid contact with the defender.** Good defensive position should be rewarded by the officials.

- There are no fumbles in flag football. Any fumble will be considered a dead ball at the spot of the fumble.
- Any fumble by the offensive team in their own end-zone will result in the ball coming back to the goal line.

Receiving

- All players are eligible to receive passes (including the quarterback if the ball has been handed off behind the line of scrimmage).
- All players may be in motion at the snap, with exception of the center.
- A player must have at least one foot inbounds when making a reception. (A receiver cannot return on to the playing field from an out of bounds position and be the first to touch the football)
- Once a player catches the ball, he/she is no longer allowed to lateral the ball. (i.e., hook and laterals are not permitted)
- Players may catch the ball while on their knees, back or side, however, the play is blown dead, and the ball is spotted where the catch was made.
- Players are eligible to catch a pass if their flag has fallen off, however, the play is blown dead, and the ball is spotted where the catch was made.
- If a player dives to catch a ball, the play is dead where the catch is made (i.e., where the players' feet/body are at the time of the catch)
- If both an offensive and defensive player catch the ball simultaneously, the tie will always go to the offense

Passing

- The quarterback has seven (7) seconds to throw the ball; he/she cannot cross the line of scrimmage with the ball.
- Once the ball is handed off or tossed, or there is a play-action fake or fake handoff, the seven (7) second rule no longer is in effect.
- Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage
- Forward passes must cross the line of scrimmage. If a forward pass does not cross the line of scrimmage, the offense will be penalized with an illegal forward pass

Dead Balls

- Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.
- Play is ruled "dead" when:
 - Official blows the whistle.
 - Ball carrier's flag is pulled or becomes illegal.
 - Illegal meaning the flag is in a position unable for the defense to pull i.e., falls off
 - Ball carrier steps out of bounds.
 - Touchdown or safety is scored.
 - When any part of the ball carrier's body, other than a hand or foot, touches the ground.
 - If the ball carriers flag falls off, the play will be whistled dead, and the ball will be spotted at the spot where the flag fell off.
- Players are eligible to catch a pass if their flag has fallen off but will be ruled down upon making the catch.
- When the ball is fumbled
 - Note:** There are no fumbles. The ball will be spotted where the ball carrier's feet were when the fumble was made. I.e., a bad snap will not be ruled as a fumble. There is no stripping of the ball.

Bad Snaps

6/7yo – Continue Play

8/9 div – Dead Ball, Re-do Play (1 time)

Defensive Rushing

- **No Rushing in the 6/7 division**
- Only players starting 7 yards behind the line of scrimmage (2yd outside the center's feet) can rush the passer
- A bean bag designates the seven yards from the line of scrimmage
- Any number of players can rush the quarterback but only players lined up within two yards (side to side) of the ball are entitled to a clear path to the quarterback.
- A rusher lined up within two yards (side to side) of the 7-yard marker is entitled to a free rush at the quarterback – the rusher may not be interfered. If interfered, it will result in an offensive rusher interference penalty
- A rusher lined up outside the two yards (side to side) of the 7-yard maker is not entitled to a free rush to the quarterback and may be interfered (For example - a running back or receiver in motion or in a pattern who runs into the rusher)
- All defenders may rush once the ball is handed off or tossed, or there is a play-action fake or fake handoff.
- The rusher may not be interfered. If interfered, it will result in an offensive rusher interference penalty.
- A rusher may not hit the quarterbacks' arm or any other part of their body while the quarterback is throwing.

Interceptions

- Interceptions change the possession of the ball.
- The defense can return interceptions.
- On interceptions that occur and remain in the end zone, the ball will become dead and will result in the ball belonging to the intercepting team at its own goal line. Should an interception occur in the end zone and the ball carrier leave the end zone, the ball will belong to the intercepting team at the spot the ball becomes dead. However, should the ball carrier return to the end zone and be de-flagged, or the ball be ruled dead the result would be a safety for the other team
- **DUE TO THE SHORT FIELD IF A BALL IS INTERCEPTED AND AN PLAYER IS THEN FLAGGED, YOU COUNT THE YARDAGE DISTANCE TO THE 5YARD LINE GOING INTO THE ENDZONE, THEN APPLY THAT DISTANCE FROM THE OPPOSITE STARTING 5 YARD LINE.**
- **REMEMBER, FLAG FOOTBALL IS NON-CONTACT, BLOCKING AND TACKLING IS NOT PERMITTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**

Sportsmanship/Roughing

- If the referee sees any acts of flagrant contact (tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking, or any unsportsmanlike act) the game will be stopped, and the player will be ejected from the game. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- Trash talking and taunting is illegal. (Trash talk and taunting is talk that may be offensive to officials, opposing players, teams, or spectators.) Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If trash talking or taunting occurs, the team committing the foul will be penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct. Officials have the right to determine offensive language
- Discriminatory statements/offensive language, such as comments of race, sex and upbringing by players, coaches or spectators will result in a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and an immediate ejection
- Deliberate questioning of officials' calls will be penalized upon the official's discretion
- Any physical or verbal abuse against an official by a player, coach or spectator will result in a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and an immediate ejection.
- In the case that parents are asked to leave the field of play, coaches are responsible to help officials enforce the decision if parents are unwilling to leave. If the parent does not leave, the team they are sided with will forfeit the game

- Once a flag is pulled, the defensive player should drop the flag so that the referee can spot the location of the flag pull.

PENALTIES

- All penalties are 5 yards (except for Pass Interference & unsportsmanlike conduct - 15 yards).
- All penalties can be declined.
- Penalties will not exceed half the distance to the opposing team's goal line from the line of scrimmage.
- Referees determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
- All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage except for flag guarding.
- Only the team captain may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players cannot question judgment calls.
- Games cannot end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines the penalty.
- If the offense and defense are both penalized with two penalties that are of the same distance (i.e., 5 yard and 5 yards), the down will be repeated
- If the offense and defense are both penalized, but one side is penalized with a 15-yard penalty, the difference between the penalties will be assessed, and the down will be repeated

Offensive Penalties

5 yards and loss of down

- No cadence by quarterback
- Illegal forward pass – pass received behind the line of scrimmage
- Offensive pass interference - receiver push offs
- **Note** - If an offensive player pulls the flag of a defensive player just as the defender is about to make a catch, the offensive player will be penalized for pass interference
- Roughing - it is up to the ball carrier to avoid contact with the defender. Good defensive position will be rewarded to the defense by the officials
- Blocking/Illegal pick play
- **Note** – Offenses may not run plays where players are placed into a stalemated position to act as stand-still blockers downfield. If a pick play or wall is intentionally run it will result in a 5-yard penalty and a loss of down
- Illegal Score – a player who has scored three offensive touchdowns, scores a 4th touchdown (or more) after being warned about scoring multiple offensive touchdowns in the current game.
- Rusher interference – It is illegal for a receiver, running back or center to run a pattern that interferes with a rusher who is at a minimum of 7 yards from the line of scrimmage and who is 2 yards (side to side) of the 7-yard rushing marker

5 yards, down repeated

- Substitution fouls – i.e., six players on the field, players enter field during the snap of the ball
- Delay of game – inability to snap the ball before the 30 second play clock expires
- False Start
- Illegal Snap – snap must occur between the legs of the snapper to the quarterback
- Player out of bounds – if a player goes out of bounds, without interference, the player may not return to the field or catch the ball

5 yards from the point of foul and loss of down

- Flag guarding – using hands, arms, or elbows to intentionally block the defender from pulling the flag.

- **Note** – Stiff arming a defender is a form of flag guarding and may also result in a roughing penalty

15 Yards and a loss of down

- Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- Team that has a player score more than 3 offensive tds after being warned that player scored a 4th offensive td and now has scored a 5th offensive td.

Defensive Penalties

5 YARDS & AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWN FOR THE OFFENCE

- Offside – occurs when a player is passed the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball
- Illegal contact – holding, blocking, jamming at the line of scrimmage
- Roughing – unintentional tackling
- Illegal Flag Pull – occurs when a defensive player pulls an offensive player’s flag with intention to cause a dead ball or making the receiver ineligible for a catch
- Illegal Rush - occurs when a rusher is passed the minimum 7-yard rushing length before the ball is snapped when attempting to rush the quarterback
- Note – The rusher must pass the line of scrimmage to be considered an illegal rush
- Quarterback release interference – Hitting the quarterbacks’ arm when rushing the passer

5 yards and down repeated

- Disconcerting signals – Signals to distract opponents or simulate offensive signals prior to the snap
- Interference with ball at the snap
- Substitution fouls – i.e., 6 players on the field, players entering the field during the snap of the ball

15 yards and automatic first down

- Pass interference – illegally preventing a receiver from catching the ball
- Note – Along with the standard rules for pass interference, if a defensive player pulls the flag of an offensive receiver just as the receiver is about to make a catch, the defensive player will be penalized for pass interference.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct – intentional physical conduct, verbal abuse