

Weld County Football League



Rules and Regulations
Revised April 2015

Section 1 - League Information

The Weld County Football League (WCFL) was formed in March 1995. Local recreation directors, directors of youth football clubs, volunteers, and parents wanted to create a program for participants to learn the skills, techniques, and rules in the game of tackle football in an organized setting. By competing against other communities of similar size and portion, a sense of fairness is present, therefore creating a program that is fun for participants.

Where applicable and within the changes and additions listed herein, the official rules will be the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, refereed to in the rules and regulations as 'official high school rules.'

All coaches and assistant coaches are mainly volunteer parents who put in countless hours of time to be able to offer a program like tackle football. Games are played on Saturdays at home and away locations with the possibility of a weekday night game scheduled. Referees are used to officiate the scheduled games that are played on a reduced size field. Many rules have been adapted or altered to promote safety and fairness. Different rules apply according to the age level of the players to give a more realistic experience of the game. Please remember that sportsmanship is a virtue that must be present in youth sports. Remember that this program is for the players and they should always be having fun

Current member chapters are as follows:

Fort Lupton Blue Devil Football (Royal Blue, White)
 Johnstown/Milliken (White, Red, Black)
 Valley Vikes Youth Football Club (Yellow, White, Black)
 Weld Central Little Rebel Football (Red, Blue)
 Kersey Youth Football (Royal, Black)

Section 2 – Eligibility of Teams

Rule 1 - Eligible Member Chapters

In order for an organization to become eligible as a Chapter to participate in the Weld County Football League, that organization must:

- Art. 1....be located within Weld County, Colorado.
- Art. 2....offer a recreational program for participants of that organizations' immediate defined area, who want to participate in organized tackle football, regardless of the participants skill level.
- Art. 3....operate at its own expense.
- Art. 4....provide its own equipment.
- Art. 5....be approved by the Weld County Football Board of Directors as stated in the By-Laws.

Rule 2 - Participation in an Area

There are no defined participation areas at this time. Participants are free to play in any chapters program they choose.

Rule 3 - Grade Divisions

- Art. 1Grade divisions for the WCFL will be as follows:
 - a ... 3rd Grade
 - b ... 4th Grade
 - c.... 5th Grade

d ... 6th Grade

- Art. 2....To be eligible to play, a player must meet the grade requirements of his/her grade division.
- Art. 3....2nd grade players are allowed to play in the 3rd grade division only.
- Art. 4....Players may move up no more than one (1) grade division. Without board approval.
- Art. 5....Players may not move down to a lower grade division.
- Art. 6....Players must remain in that grade group for the entire season.
- Art. 7....No players name may appear on two (2) rosters. Any acceptance to this rule must be Board approved.

Rule 4 - Registration Requirements

No player shall be eligible to participate until the League, a Chapter or both has received:

- Art. 1the approved Chapter or League registration form waiver and has been signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- Art. 2....other proper documentation such as:
 - a ... an athletic physical if required.

Rule 5 - Registration Deadline

The date for registration closure will be set each year by the Weld County Football League Board of Directors, however, each Chapter may set its' own registration deadline to fall before the League deadline.

Rule 6 - Formation of Teams

- Art. 1....Teams will be formed by each Chapter.
- Art. 2....Multiple teams formed in the same grade division by a Chapter are regulated solely by that Chapter.
- Art. 3....All Chapter jersey colors must be approved by the WCFL Board.

Rule 7 - Official Rosters

Team rosters will be prepared by each Chapter team and presented to the Weld County Football League Board of Directors for approval at the designated meeting prior to the first official game. All rosters should include the:

- Art. 1Chapter name.
- Art. 2Grade division.
- Art. 3Team name.
- Art. 4Head coach's
- ..first and last name,
 - .. mailing and/or street address, city, zip
 -contact phone numbers (day and evening)

Art. 5 ...listing of all players including:

- ..first and last name
- ..grade
- ..jersey number
- .. actual weight in lbs. from official weigh-in.

Coaches will be required to have an official roster, approved by the WCFL Board of Directors, at each official game.

Rule 8 - Roster Exchange

At the first Board of Directors meeting after the official registration cut off date designated by the WCFL Board of Directors, all rosters will be turned in to the WCFL and rosters will be exchanged with all other Chapters.

Rule 9 - Incomplete Rosters

If the requirements of Section 2, Rule 7, are not provided to the WCFL Board of Directors, prior to any official game being played, then any games played by that team will be forfeited.

Rule 10 - Ineligible Player

- Art. 1If the requirements of Section 2, Rule 7, Article 6 a-f, are not provided to the Board of Directors, prior to the player participating in an official game of the Weld County Football League, affected players will be declared ineligible.
- Art. 2If an ineligible player plays in a game, that game will be automatically forfeited.

Rule 11 - Mandatory Weigh-ins

- Art. 1....The WCFL Board of Directors have designated the 4th Thursday of August for the official 'weigh-in.'
- * Early weigh ins will be allowed for a \$25.00 fee payable to the league and must be at a scheduled league meeting.
- Art. 2....A WCFL Representative of the Board of Directors from *another* Chapter will attend the official weigh-in of each Chapter. That WCFL Representatives will certify the weights to be accurate on each player on each weigh-in form.
- Art. 3....All players are required to be weighed and have that player's weight documented on the official team roster.
- Art. 4....Any player who has missed the official weigh-in, or the early weigh in must weigh at Weld County Football League Board Meeting before the first game. At the cost of \$50.00 payable to the league. Failure to weigh here player becomes ineligible to participate for the season.
- Art. 5....Any players added since the official weigh-in must have an official registration form and a weight documented on the official roster by a League Representative from another Chapter.

Rule 12 - Weight Limitations

Weight limitations shall be as follows:

"If a player moves up a grade division due to weight limitations there is no maximum weight limit for that player."

	Grade Div.	Backfield	Max. wt
Art. 13 rd	Grade	80.0 lbs	130.0 lbs
Art. 24 th	Grade	90.0 lbs	150.0 lbs
Art. 35 th	Grade	100.0 lbs	170.0 lbs
Art. 46 th	Grade	110.0 lbs	Open

Rule 13 - Striped Player

A designated 'striped player':

- Art. 1....is a player who exceeds the listed 'backfield weight' at the official weigh-in for that respective grade division.
- Art. 2....shall be designated by a 3/4 inch minimum width stripe, down the center, from front to back of the helmet.
- Art. 3....shall have the color of the stripe:
- Black Only**, on light colored helmets
 - White Only**, on dark colored helmets
- Art. 4....at no time may:
- .. run with the ball at any time.

- b. ...catch the ball as the receiver of an offensive pass.
 - c....run with the ball as an intercepted pass.
 - d. ...run with a kicked or punted ball.
 - e. ...run with any other live ball.
 - f. ...line up in the backfield on offense.
 - g. ...line up as a linebacker or defensive back on defense.
- Art. 5....may be allowed in the offensive backfield for the purpose of:
- a. ...attempting to kick extra points.
 - b. ...attempting to kick field goals.
 - c.... punting the ball.
- Art. 6....in the backfield causes a team to not be allowed to attempt:
- a. ...fake punts.
 - b. ...fake field goals.
 - c.... fake extra points.
- Art. 7....who is the intended Kicker or Punter, in the event of a muffed snap from the Center, can do nothing with the ball, other then:
- a. ...punt or kick.
 - b. ...down the ball.
 - c.... or block.
- Art. 8....during kickoffs or free kicks following a safety:
- a. ...on the kicking team, may be permitted to kick the ball or play any other position on the kicking team.
 - b. ...on the receiving team, must play the front line.
- Art. 9....playing without the proper minimum stripe requirements shall be declared an ineligible player.(refer to Rule 10 Art. 2)
- Art. 10..who violates this rule creates a dead ball foul.

Section 3 - Playing Periods

Rule 1 - Defined

- Art. 1....A **non-contact** playing period is defined as a practice where the players are not wearing pads (helmets are allowed).
- Art. 2....A **contact** playing period is any practice or game where the players are participating in full pads.
- Art. 3....A **playing period** is defined as a non-contact practice, contact practice, or a game, in which the players are engaged in organized instruction of play or practice of play.

Rule 2 - Limits

- Art. 1....The first week of practice shall be non-contact.
- Art. 2....All participants must have participated in a minimum of three (3) non-contact

practices before participation in any contact practice or playing period.

- Art. 3....Each team is limited to a maximum of four (4) playing periods per week.

Rule 3 - Start of Practice

- Art. 1....The first day of organized practice shall be set by the Weld County Football League Board of Directors and no team shall practice prior to this date.
- Art. 2....Violation of this rule:
- a. ... **FIRST INFRACTION:** will result in the head coach being suspended from all football activity with the Weld County Football League for a period of one (1) year.
 - b. ... **SECOND INFRACTION:** will result in expulsion from the Weld County Football League permanently.

Section 4 - Field & Equipment

Rule 1 - Field Measurements

The playing field shall have:

- Art. 1....a length of sixty (60.0) yards long.
- Art. 2....a length of forty (40.0) yards wide.
- Art. 3....end zones, ten (10.0) yards in length behind both goal lines.

Rule 2 - Field Markings

The field shall have, with field marker material, or burned into the field turf.

- Art. 1....end lines and sidelines.
- Art. 2....goal lines at each goal.
- Art. 3....a twenty-five (25) yard line from each goal.
- Art. 4....colored flags, cones, or end zone markers at all four corners of both end zones.

- Art.5.....a thirty (30) yard line designating mid-field, and every 10 yards to goal line.

- Art.6.....ten (10) yard numerical markers placed on at least one side of the field.

- Art. 7 ...extra point line marked clearly (2) yard line

Rule 3 - Goal Posts

Goal posts are not required but are strongly recommended. If goal post(s) are utilized then they shall:

- Art. 1....be placed on the end line of one or both end zones.
- Art. 2....have uprights of a minimum of fifteen (15) feet apart.
- Art. 3....have a crossbar measuring a minimum of nine (9) feet above ground from the top side.
- Art. 4....be free standing and in place at the start of the game.

Rule 4 - Game Equipment

The home team will furnish:

Art. 1a down marker.

Art. 2a ten (10) yard chain.

Rule 5 - Game Ball

The ball used must be:

Art. 1Wilson K2 for 3rd grade & 4th grade division.

Art. 2Wilson TDJ for 5th grade & 6th grade division.

Rule 6 - Footwear

Art. 1All players must wear footwear.

Art. 2Cleats or turf shoes are not required.

Rule 7 - Mouth Guard

Mouth Guards are mandatory and are to be worn inside the mouth on every play by every

player on the field when the ball is live. All mouth guards must be attached to the face mask.

Rule 8 - Players Equipment

All helmets shall have:

Art. 1an official NOC•SAE stamp in place on the back side of the helmet and a warning sticker stating the risks involved with head injury.

Art. 2a chin strap.

Art. 3a NOC•SAE approved facemask.

Rule 9 - Acceptance of Field

The field is accepted as a playing field as determined by the officials, prior to the start of the game. If the officials cannot accept the playing field as is:

Art. 1then the home team will be given the opportunity to correct any discrepancies in the field.

Art. 2and the home team cannot correct the discrepancy, then the game will be forfeited.

Section 5 - Game Rules

Where applicable and within the changes and additions listed herein, the official rules will be the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, refereed to in the rules and regulations as 'official high school rules.'

Rule 1 - Game Officials

Each game shall have:

Art. 1a field supervisor, typically a Chapter Director.(Pregame conference with Officials as needed mandatory)

Art. 2Three (3) field officials for each game. Game must be played with a minimum of two (2) officials. Only officials approved by the Weld County Football League may officiate games. In the event of an emergency this may be decided at game time by the W.C.F.L. representatives at game site. (1 from each chapter)

Art. 3two (2) play recorders for. One from each team. Play recorders shall:

- a. ...stay together throughout the game.
- b. ...record the plays thus determining when the quarters are completed.
- c.... notify the game officials at five (5) plays before the end of each quarter.
- d. ...remain by the down box during the course of the game.
- e. ...If a discrepancy between the play recorders exists then it shall be resolved by a flip of a coin by the referee.

Art. 4two (2) chain marker individuals.

Art. 5one (1) down marker person.

The home team should supply two (2) people and the visiting team should supply one (1) person for the marker and chain markers.

Art. 6 ... In the event of only one play recorder, that shall be the official play record.

Rule 2 - Length of Games

Each game will consist of four (4) quarters measured by number of plays without regard to actual time involved. Number of plays for each grade division is:

Art. 1 ... sixteen (16) for 3rd grade & 4th grade divisions.

Art. 2 ... twenty (20) for 5th grade & 6th grade divisions.

Plays that DO NOT count as play are:

Art. 3 ... try for point(s) after touchdown.

Art. 4 ... when both sides penalized.

Art. 5 ... plays involving a penalty to one side, unless the penalty is refused.

Art. 7 ... 35 point mercy rule

Rule 3 - Half Time

Half time intermissions shall be fifteen (15) minutes in length.

Rule 4 - Time-outs

Art. 1 ... All team time-outs are to be one (1) minute.

Art. 2 ... Each team is allowed three (3) time-outs per half that do not accumulate from the first half to the second half.

Art. 3 ... Injury time-outs are to be charged to the officials.

Art. 4 ... Only one (1) coach at a time is allowed on the field during a time-out.

Art. 5 ... As many coaches as needed may attend an injured player.

Art. 6 ... Only one (1) coach is allowed in the team huddle during an injury time out.

Rule 5 – Win – Loss - Tie Game

Regular season league games will utilize a scoring system for wins vs. losses vs. ties.

Art. 1....At the end of regular play and one team has scored more points then the opponent then that team will be declared the winner of that game and awarded two (2) points for the scoring system.

Art. 2....At the end of regular play and the score tied then the result will be considered a tie game and no extra periods or series of plays shall be played. Both teams will be awarded one (1) point for the scoring system

Art. 3....At the end of regular play and one team has scored less points then the opponent then that team will be declared the loser of that game and awarded zero (0) points for the scoring system.

Rule 6 - Position of Ball at Start of Play

The ball will be placed:

Art. 1....on the twenty-five (25) yard line for all kick-offs.

Art. 2....on the twelve (12) yard line for free kicks and touch-backs.

Art. 3....on the two (2) yard line for all extra point attempts.

Rule 7 - Kickoffs

If the football goes:

Art. 1....out of bounds on the kick-off inside the twenty (20) yard line (goal to 20 yards), the football will be placed at the twenty (20) yard line.

Art. 2....out of bounds beyond the twenty (20) yard line (20 + yards) the football will be placed at the yard marker where the ball went out of bounds.

Art. 3....into the end zone, the ball will be placed at the twelve (12) yard line.

Rule 8 - Scoring

The following points will be scored:

Art. 1....Six (6) points for a touchdown.

Art. 2....Three (3) points for a successful field goal.

Art. 3....Two (2) points for a:

- a. ... successful place kick or drop kick after a touchdown.

b....A pass caught in the end zone after a touchdown.

Art. 4... One (1) point for any other successful play after a touch down.

Rule 9 - Penalties

All penalties in the official high school rules will be reduced to 60% of their stated value.

Art. 1 ... fifteen (15) yards shall be (9) yards

Art. 2 ... ten (10) yards shall be (6) yards

Art. 3 ... five (5) yards shall be (3) yards

Rule 10 - Yardage

All distances that are not specified in these rules will be sixty (60) percent of the high school rules, except on-side kicks and first down yardage.

Rule 11 - Mandatory Play Rule

Each chapter will govern this.

Rule 12 - Declared Punt

This rule applies to the 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade divisions. *The declared punt rule is defined as a declaration that the offensive team will be punting the ball away.* It comes into effect when the offensive team notifies the official that they want to make this rule operative. The official will notify the coaches of both teams that a punt will be made. In this situation:

Art. 1 ... The ball must be kicked when a punt is declared.

Art. 2 ... No players except the kicker can move until the ball is punted.

Penalty: Violation of this rule will be considered illegal procedure. If a punt has not been declared, then this rule is inoperative.

Rule 13 – Mercy Rule

If the score difference at any time during the second half of the game is 35 or more the game will be played as every play will count as played plays; including kick off, extra points, and penalties for remainder of that game. If there is a 42-point differential at any time during the second half the game will be called.

Rule 14 – Center

No center sneaks will be allowed in accordance with High School Federation rules.

The centers head shall be allowed to hang over the line of scrimmage while snapping the ball.

Section 6 – Other Information

Rule 1 - Forfeited Games

A scheduled game is automatically forfeited by any team which cannot field ten (10) eligible players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled game time, unless the game is officially postponed.

Rule 2 - Postponed Games

In general the WCFL tries to discourage the postponement of games due to inclement weather if the field is playable.

Art. 1....Rescheduled games will be played in their entirety.

Art. 2....Rescheduling of games will be done as soon as possible by mutual agreement.

In the event of severe weather, the Area League Representative is to contact the Weld County Football League Board of Directors so a special meeting may be called to make all the necessary changes. Games may be postponed by the home team Director or President, not less than three (3) hours prior to the game. No coach or referee can postpone games. In case of deterioration of the playing field within three (3) hours before a game, a home team League Representative will decide if the field is playable.

Rule 3 - Championships

The champions in each grade division of the league will be determined by the point scoring system for wins – losses – ties at the end of the regular scheduled season games.

Rule 4 - Keeping Order

Each team's spectators must remain orderly and off of the playing field staying behind the spectator's boundary. Shouting in abusive language at players, officials, or spectators is strictly prohibited, and a violation will result in a warning by the officials or a nine (9) yard penalty for each subsequent offense. At the immediate time of any incident of both physical abuse of an official by a spectator, the officials will meet with the coaches of both teams in order that every effort should be made to identify the assailant. Physical abuse on an official by any coach WILL result in suspension of the coach from any Weld County Football League activities permanently.

Rule 5 - Coaching

Officials will enforce the high school rules pertaining to coaches boundaries and conduct except that coaching from the sidelines by the team's coaches will be permitted. One (1) coach from each team shall be allowed on the field during a time out. A coach may ask for a rule interpretation from a game official provided he/she does it in a respectful manner.

Rule 6 - Rescinding of Membership

If any Weld County Football League member area consistently disregards the rules and by-laws of the Weld County Football League, the membership may be rescinded. The Weld County Football League shall impose and monitor corrective action such that the membership might be retained. If such corrective action is not forthcoming, the area membership may be rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.

Rule 7 – Absence at Official League Meetings

All Chapters are required to have appropriate representation at each scheduled league meeting. The WCFL Board reserves the right to fine a Chapter \$25, per missed meeting, in the event that a Chapter has no representation at any scheduled league meeting.

Rule 8 – Dogs at A WCFL Playing Period

Dogs will not be allowed on the premises according to the facility rules that are in place throughout the WCFL chapters. Excluding papered service dogs.

Rule 9 – Player or Coach Ejection

If a player or coach is ejected during any WCFL sponsored event they will be ineligible from the next WCFL sponsored event. If the ejection takes place during the last event of a sanctioned year it will carry over into the next sanctioned year. This rule is in line with NFHS.

All ejections are subject to WCFL review, and could lead to permanent league ejection.