

# SECTION IX MODIFIED A & B (8 Man) FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

Teams will be divided into A & B squads. Roster will be exchanged between coaches prior to each game. Section IX strongly suggests that Modified Coaches call each other 48 hours prior to the contest to report number of players on each team. Contact numbers will be placed in the Section IX Football Handbook.

## 1. The current year National Federation Rules and Section IX Approved Rules for Modified Football will govern play:

- a. The Modified A & B Football program will play five (5) ten minute quarters, where number of players is sufficient to do so.
- b. **Punts will be employed in all Modified games following H.S. rules, exception below.**
- c. Team offensive formations are limited to standard formations including the use of only one side receiver (NO UNBALANCED LINE); there may be a maximum split of 1 yard between linemen , **tackle to tackle**. If a wide receiver is employed, the maximum split from the tackle cannot be more that 10 yards. On the snap of the ball, there may be only 1 player outside of the end on either or both sides of the field. Motion shall be prohibited to the side of the formation that has one player outside of the end. **If the ends split on punt formation the teams must punt. All down field blocking must be done above the waist.** *2 Wideouts are allowed, but not more than 10 yards from the end. The wideouts may be either, or both, split ends/or flankers. But the formation is limited to only one wideout to a side. As in the past, no shifts or motion is allowed, BUT, motion is allowed only by the set back to create a second wideout formation. To be legally in motion, the set back must start from a set position in the backfield, either directly behind the snapper, or on the side of the snapper that is in the direction of the in the direction of the motion. That is, the man in motion cannot cross an imaginary line through the snapper and parallel to the sidelines. **The offense must employ two players on the line-of-scrimmage on both sides of the center, no unbalanced line.***
- d. Until the snap, **defenses may employ a 3 or 4 man front**, in an imaginary straight line within 2 yards of the ball. **A (4) man front must be balanced and aligned head up, end to end and cannot cover the center (no gap alignment).** If a (3) man front is employed. **The nose guard must line head up on the center and tackles head up on the offensive ends (no gap alignment.)** Defensive Lineman, once aligned and in a stance cannot step prior to the snap of the ball. **No Blitzing allowed. Linebackers must be stationary and at a 3 yard minimum depth at the snap of the ball;** the two or three defensive backs must be at least 3 yards behind the deepest linebacker. **Press coverage and contact at the line-of-scrimmage is not allowed against a receiver (Exception: you may press, and contact is allowed with any eligible receiver within 5 yards of the offensive tackle)** Inside the 10 yard line defensive backs may be 2 yards behind the deepest linebacker. Penalties: improper formation – 5 yards; down field blocking below the waist – 15 yards.

- e. **\*\*EXPERIMENTAL RULE-Kick-off may be used beginning with the third week of the season upon advance notice by the coaches to the opposing Athletic Director.** There shall be no on-side kickoffs permitted, and the kicking team shall not be permitted to recover the kickoff under any circumstances.
  - f. Point-After-Touchdown will be scored; 2 points for a kick and 1 point for run or completed pass.
  - g. Safety – scoring team puts the ball in play on the 50 yard line.
  - h. All down field blocking must be done above the waist.
  - i. When an offensive team employs a wide receiver (split end or flanked), the defensive end to that side of the formation may assume a “walkaway” position. The end may align at a maximum depth even with the two inside linebackers and not wider than half the distance between the wide receiver and the next lineman.
  - j. Ball: (1) Modified “B” (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) will use the Youth ball.
- (2) Modified “A” ( 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade) will use either Youth or High School.
- k. Numbering: If because of the number of players on a team or due to budgeting problems, a school cannot uniform its team by proper numbers (lineman, ends, & backs), that school’s coach will notify the opposing school’s coach and the officials prior to the start of the game to allow those players to participate (Example # 57 for a Tight End)
- 2. In addition to the above, the following rules will govern play for Modified A & B Football when 5 quarters are being played:**
- a. Teams will be divided into “A” and “B” squads. Rosters will be exchanged between coaches prior to each game. The “A” teams should consist of the best offensive and defensive players, and the “B” Team should consist of the balance of the team. The players designated as “A” Team play exclusively on the “A” team, and the players designated as “B” Team play exclusively on the “B” team. **The only exception would be injury**. If an “A” team player were injured, he would be replaced by a “B” Team player. The replacement player becomes a member of the “A” team and may not play on the “B” team. The “B” team must use a non-starting “B” team member to replace an injured player. If a team is short players, and “A” team player may be substituted for the injured “B” team player after a conference of both coaches from each school is held to insure another “B” team player is not available.
  - b. **There must be at least 12 players per “A” & “B” squad. Any teams unable to field the required number of players must notify opponents Athletic Director and League Office at least one day prior to the scheduled date of the contest, then a (4) four quarter game will be played. All teams with 24 or more players will play a five quarter game – teams with 23 or less players must play a four quarter game. If a team does not have 12 players, the opposing school’s Athletic Director and League Office shall be notified and the contest shall be canceled.**

**If a school district is experiencing an extenuating circumstance, special situation and/or a safety issue pertaining to their current team the following criteria must be met by both competing schools no later than 3 days prior to the scheduled contest:**

1. Both Athletic Directors need to fully communicate all extenuating circumstances.
2. Coordinate and complete a written signed mutual game agreement between both schools.
3. Forward the written mutual game agreement to the Section 9 Football Coordinator and league office.
4. Fully communicate the game agreement with all Coaches, League Coordinators and Game Officials.
5. If a mutual game agreement cannot be obtained by both schools the contest will be cancelled.

**c.** At the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> quarters play will begin from the spot where the ball was last placed in the previous quarters.

**d.** There will be half time of ten minutes. The ball will change possession at the half time.

**e.** "A" squad will play the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> quarters.

**f.** "B" squad will play 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.

**g.** All teams must be split evenly. i.e. 30 players, 15 each squad/ 36 players, 18 each squad.

**h.** When a 4 quarter game is played there will be no 5<sup>th</sup> quarter scrimmage allowed. Only teams with "A" and "B" squads are eligible for 5<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**3. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches or players will not be tolerated and will follow NYSPHSAA and Section IX rules.**

**\*\*Each half will start with a kickoff.**

**A. The 100-yard field kickoff will be from the 40-yard line.**

**B. The kickoff line will be marked with an appropriate symbol, usually an "X".)**

**C. There shall be no on-side kickoffs permitted, and the kicking team shall not be permitted to recover the kickoff under any condition.**

**D. When a kickoff goes out of bounds the receiving team shall have the option of:**

**1. Taking the ball at the point where it went out of bounds**

**OR**

**2. Accept a five (5) yard penalty and re-kick the ball.**