

New York State – 8-Man Football Rules

Rule Book information on 8-man football with changes that have been adopted by the New York State Football Committee – These rules are to be used in ALL 8-Man Football Games.

EIGHT-PLAYER FOOTBALL

GENERAL: Eleven-player rules are used for eight-player football with the following modifications:

RULE 1: Each team has 8 players. The field is 100 yards between goal lines and 40 yards wide with 15-yard side zones.

NY State has adopted the use of converting the standard 11 player field with the appropriate changes made to the layout utilizing cones or lines. The sidelines will be aligned with the bottom of the numbers on the 11 player field. When spotting the ball on a field that is marked with high school hash marks, the officials will place the ball approximately 2 yards inside those existing hash marks.

Use of the standard 11 player 100 yard field without conversion is not allowed. The game must be played in accordance with the following 8 player field layout: 100 yards by 40 yards.

**With Sectional approval, a school may play on a field that is 80 X 40 yards.

RULE 2: The free-blocking zone is a 6 yd by 6 yd square area extending laterally 3 yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3 yards behind each line of scrimmage. *(The 11-man 8 yd by 6 yd FBZ will NOT be used)*

RULE 2: The Outside 7-Yard Mark and Between 7-Yard Mark Conferences shall be held outside (near the sideline) or between the 7-yard marks (5 yards inside the top of the numbers on the 11 player field), respectively. This should not be an issue, as most teams come to the sideline for timeouts.

RULE 6:

a. K's free-kick line is its 40-yard line and R's free-kick line is the 50 on the 100 X 40 eight-player field.

b. K is required to have at least three players on each side of the kicker.

RULE 7:

a. At least 5 Team A players shall be on their line at the snap, 3 of whom must be numbered 50-79 and aligned next to each other.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. On first, second or third down, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation, the snapper may be a player numbered 0 to 49 or 80 to 99. If Team A has the snapper in the game under this exception, Team A shall have two players wearing numbers 50-79 on its line of scrimmage. The snapper in the game under this exception must be between the ends and is an ineligible forward-pass receiver during that down unless the pass is touched by B.
2. On fourth down or during a kick try, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation, any A player numbered 0 to 49 or 80 to 99 may take the position of any A player numbered 50 to 79. A player in the game under this exception must assume an initial position on his line of scrimmage between the ends and he remains an ineligible forward-pass receiver during that down unless the pass is touched by B.

b. Players with numbers 50-79 are not eligible for a pass, regardless of their alignment on the field.

c. After the ball is marked ready for play, each player of Team A that participated in the previous down, and each substitute for Team A must have been, momentarily, between the 7-yard marks, (5 yards inside the 11 player numbers) before the snap.

d. Each Team A player numbered 1-49 or 80-99 who at the snap was on an end of the scrimmage line (total of two) and each A player who at the snap was legally behind the scrimmage line (maximum of three) are eligible.

RULE 8:

On the 100 X 40 eight-player field, the ball is snapped after a touchback and is free kicked after a safety from the 20-yard line.

RULE 10:

The basic spot is the 20-yard line for fouls by either team when the opponent of the team in possession at the time of the foul is responsible for forcing the ball across the goal line of the team in possession, and the related run ends in the end zone and is followed by a loose ball, regardless of where the loose ball becomes dead.