

KIWANIS JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE
LITTLE BLUE AND LITTLE RED TACKLE FOOTBALL
GENERAL POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND RULES

(Revised June, 2009)

I. REGISTRATION AND DRAFT

A. Only third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders residing in Jennings County may participate.

B. To register, a player must have a parents' permission form signed, pass a physical examination to play tackle football, and pay a fee. If payment of the fee would create a financial hardship that would prevent the player from participating, the parents may request the Kiwanis Club to waive the fee.

C. Players who participated in the program the previous year will be assigned to the same team.

D. Little Blue players new to the program will be subject to a draft to determine which team they will be on. This draft will come after registration and a practice camp or clinic that all players will participate in. During this practice camp or clinic, the coaches will judge the abilities of the new players in order to make decisions for the draft. After the practice camp or clinic and before the draft, the number of total players will be determined and then divided by the number of teams to determine the number of players each team will have. Teams will then draft in reverse order of the previous season's finish until their total number of returning players, automatically assigned players, and drafted players equals the number of players allotted to them. *(These provisions will be modified if and when additional teams are added.)*

E. Little Blue players who register for the program after the draft will be assigned to teams in the same order as the draft and in the order that they register, keeping the teams as equal in number as possible.

F. Little Red players new to the program will be divided among the teams by the agreement of a majority of the coaches. An attempt will be made to divide players of specific abilities (for example, potential quarterbacks) so that teams will be balanced.

G. A head coach automatically gets his children or siblings on his team. Children or siblings of prospective assistant coaches are subject to the draft.

H. Siblings (players) are automatically on the same team. If one played the previous season, the other is assigned to the same team with no loss of a draft pick. If both/all are new to the program, the siblings go to the team that picks one of them first with no draft pick lost for the other sibling(s) until the team has reached its quota.

I. A change of players who have already played for one team from that team to another will be allowed upon the approval of a majority vote of the head coaches. The team receiving the new player(s) will lose an even-numbered draft pick for each player it receives.

J. Special requests to be on a specific team can be approved by a majority vote of the head coaches, subject to the loss of a draft pick as determined by an agreement of a majority of the head coaches.

K. If a parent does not want his/her child to play for a particular team, he/she must submit, in writing to the league director, the reasons for not wanting the child to be on that team. The Kiwanis Club will study the request and if approved, the player will be kept off the team in question.

L. The Little Red (third and fourth grade) and Little Blue (fifth and sixth grade) programs are separate. There is no connection between a player's team as a fourth grader and his team as a fifth grader.

II. PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS

A. A team may practice a maximum of three times per week.

B. No practice shall be longer than 90 minutes.

C. Failure to abide by the above rules will result in an automatic forfeit of the next league game; the forfeiting team must still play the game.

D. Coaches will submit to the league director a weekly practice schedule indicating the days, times, and places of practices. A schedule will be turned in at the draft and at each Sunday game.

E. The league director will inform coaches as to what practice sites are available. No practices are to be held on the varsity baseball or varsity softball diamonds at the high school or on the game field. Due to insurance issues and possible conflicts with the soccer program, no practices are to be held at Muscatatuck County Park.

F. Coaches should ask parents who attend practice to park in appropriate parking places so as not to interfere with other school or park activities.

III. COACHING BEHAVIOR AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The North Vernon Kiwanis Club approves all coaches. Coaches will fill out an information sheet and agree to a criminal background check. Coaches who fail to abide by league policies may be removed at any time by the North Vernon Kiwanis Club.

B. Coaches are expected to treat players in a positive manner. The program must be fun for the participants. The

program is intended to teach the players the game of football, sportsmanship and fair play, and individual and team discipline and spirit. The best results come from coaches who are fair and firm in their discipline, who treat their players with respect, who offer positive encouragement, and who teach how to play the game. We expect **all** coaches (head coaches and assistants) to follow these guidelines:

1. No swearing or cussing.
2. Do not discipline a player for failing to do something if you have not taught him what to do or how to do it. A player cannot be held responsible for something he does not know.
3. Do not discipline a player for a physical mistake when he has tried his best. Discipline should be for those players who know what to do but for some reason do not do the proper thing.
4. Do not discipline a player by forcing him to run laps; sit-up or push-ups would be appropriate.
5. NEVER hit a player or grab his facemask.
6. Teach and explain why a mistake was made. Teach and explain how to correct a mistake. Yelling will not accomplish this.
7. Emphasize the fundamentals so that the players will be able to achieve success.
8. COACH ALL PLAYERS SO THAT THEY WILL WANT TO PLAY FOOTBALL AGAIN NEXT FALL.

C. Any serious injury to a player during a practice or a game must be reported to the league director as soon as possible.

D. Coaches must play each player in each game unless the player is injured or ill and the coach or parent(s) deems it best that he not play, or unless the player is being disciplined by the coach. In either case, a written statement telling why a certain player is not playing must be given to the league director at least 15 minutes prior to the team's game.

E. A "clear the bench" rule will be followed. When there is a change of possession, all players on the bench not subject to III-C or III-D above must enter the game and stay in until the next change of possession. The only exception to this is injury. Coaches may make adjustments to their offensive and defensive teams at halftime.

F. Coaches are strongly encouraged to set up their teams so that all players get a chance to play both offense and defense at some point during the season.

G. One coach per team is allowed on the playing field. The coach for the offensive team must stay at least 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage; the coach for the defensive team must be at least 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Coaches on the field must make a valid attempt to stay out of the way of play. Coaches may help on alignment but should refrain from telling players what to do after the ball is snapped.

H. Only a head coach may ask an official for an explanation. He may question only the application of a rule, not the official's judgment. A 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty can be assessed if this is violated.

I. A coach must remain at the practice site until all players have been picked up. Coaches should tell parents when the practice ends and insist that parents get there at a reasonable time after the practice is over. Parents who are habitually unreasonably late should be reported to the league director.

J. Coaches have the responsibility to make sure that no property is abused, damaged, or destroyed by players.

K. Coaches are responsible for helping to collect equipment after the final game and to collect equipment from players who quit during the season. A list of players who have not returned equipment and the equipment that they owe must be given to the league director no later than a week after the awards banquet.

L. Coaches should be present at the awards banquet to present their team's awards and to comment on their players and season.

IV. IMPORTANCE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

(1) Players must play by the rules and demonstrate good sportsmanship while doing so. *Players who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior will be suspended from the game in progress and possibly from the rest of the season.* Game officials will continue to monitor players' conduct and additional Kiwanians will also observe play, especially play away from the ball.

(2) Coaches are to display good sportsmanship toward all players, the officials, other coaches, and parents and fans.

- ❖ They are reminded that positive encouragement of their players is a far more effective teaching tool than negative disparagement. Screaming and yelling is not effective teaching or coaching.
- ❖ Coaches deal with the players on their team. *They should not try to coach, correct, or question players on other teams.* If there is an issue, talk to the head coach of that player's team. (Of course, coaches may compliment players on other teams for good play and good sportsmanship.)

- ❖ Coaches must not get involved in debates or arguments with parents or fans of other teams. If there is an issue, bring it up with a Kiwanis official.
- (3) Parents and fans are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship as well.
- ❖ Admission to the games does not entitle one to berate the officials or opposing teams' coaches or players.
 - ❖ Parents and fans need to understand the difference between aggressive, hard-hitting play that is legal and play that is dirty. Falsely accusing an aggressive team of dirty play is unsportsmanlike.
 - ❖ Parents/fans must not get involved in debates or arguments with coaches, parents or fans of other teams. If there is an issue, bring it up with a Kiwanis official.
 - ❖ Parents/fans are not to coach, correct, or question players on other teams. Again, compliments on good play or good sportsmanship are permitted.

(4) ALL INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM ARE REMINDED THAT WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER FOR THE PLAYERS. IF WE ALL DO WHAT IS RIGHT, IT WILL IMPROVE THE PLAYERS' EXPERIENCES.

V. PLAYING RULES

A. High school playing rules will be followed except for the exceptions listed below.

B. The kicking or offensive team can choose the ball to be used during that down of play. Little Blue will use a youth ball (such as Wilson TDY) and Little Red will use a "peewee" ball (such as Wilson K2).

C. All Little Blue players who weigh over 115 pounds and Little Red players who weigh over 95 pounds on registration day or a designated weighing date shall be ineligible to carry the ball and shall be ineligible pass receivers. Their helmets shall be marked with tape. When one of those players gains control of the ball, it immediately becomes a dead ball; they may not advance the ball.

D. Games will consist of four 12:00 quarters with a running clock. There will be an 8:00 halftime. The clock will be stopped on a change of possession in the last 2:00 of a half. Teams are allowed one timeout in the last 2:00 of each half. Officials will have the option of stopping the clock for injuries or other unusual situations.

E. Coaches must "clear the bench" on each change of possession. (See III-D.)

F. For the first three Little Blue games of the season, there will be no kickoffs. The receiving team at the start of a half or after a score will start with the ball at its own 35 yard line. A team scoring a safety will start with the ball at midfield (50 yard line). For the last three games of the season, teams will kickoff and return kickoffs. *Little Red teams will not use a kickoff.*

G. A team wishing to punt on fourth down may declare its intention to punt to an official before the ball is snapped. If a punt is declared:

1. The defense may not rush.
2. The punting team must use a long snap to a punter positioned at least 8 yards behind the line of scrimmage.
3. The ball must be punted.
4. The defensive team may return the punt.
5. The kicking team must remain on its side of the line of scrimmage until the ball is punted and then should cover for the return.

H. A kicked PAT (point after touchdown) will be worth two points. A PAT run/pass will be worth one point. A team choosing to kick the PAT must declare its intentions to an official before the ball is snapped. If a PAT kick is declared:

1. The defense may not rush but may try to distract the kicker. The defense must be on the field.
2. The kicking team must align in a traditional PAT formation.
3. The kicking team must use a long snap to a holder at least 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage, who will hold the ball on a 2" placement tee.
4. The ball must be kicked within four seconds of the snap.

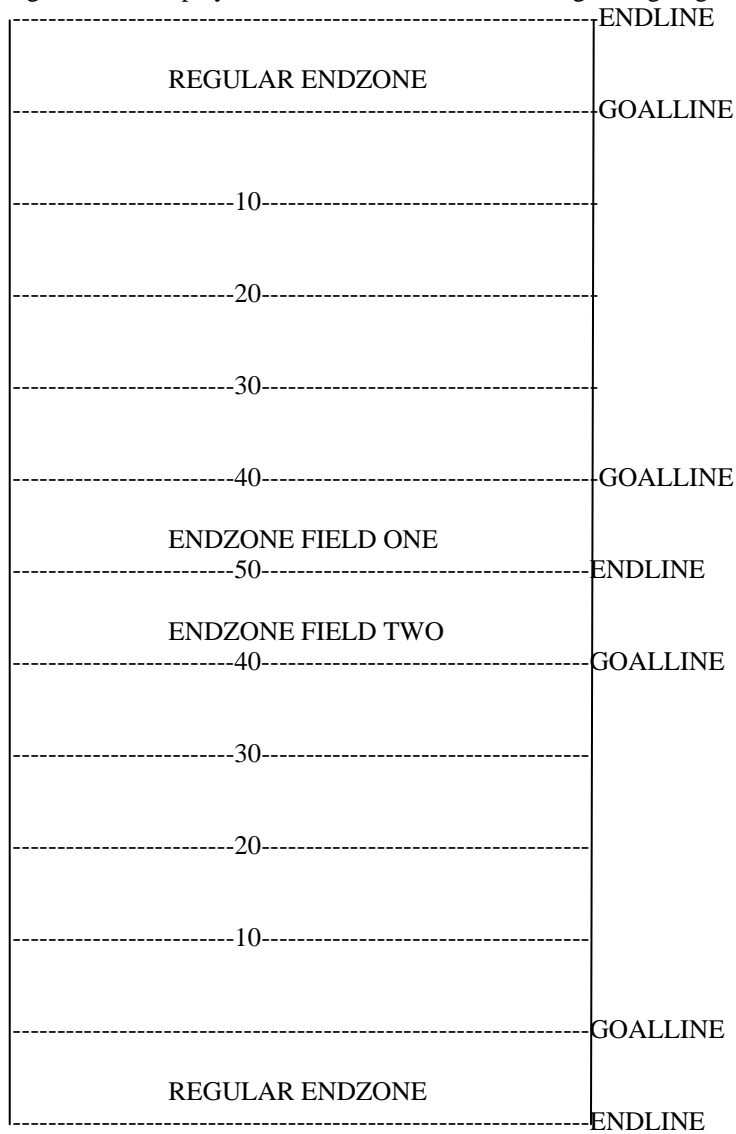
Little Red teams will not kick PATs.

I. Each team will play the defense of the high school varsity head coach if so requested by the high school varsity head coach. The league director will be responsible for explaining the defense(s) that can be used to the coaches. In any case, the following principles apply:

1. Defensive linemen and linebackers must align "on a man." "On a man" means inside shoulder, head-up, or outside shoulder. Only one defensive player may align on any single offensive player. The reason for this is to simplify blocking assignments.
2. Linebackers must line up behind the feet of the defensive linemen.
3. Defensive secondary players must be behind the linebackers or outside of the defensive ends.
4. Neither linebackers nor secondary players may blitz (charge across the line of scrimmage without reading the play).

J. Each team will use the offensive formations, terms, cadence, and basic plays of the high school varsity head coach if so requested by the high school varsity head coach. The league director will be responsible for getting the necessary information to the coaches.

K. Little Red games will be played on half of the field with both games going on at the same time.



There will be no kickoffs. Teams will start with the ball on the 20 to start a half or after the other team scores. No scores will be kept in Little Red games.

V. AWARDS: LITTLE BLUE (FIFTH + SIXTH GRADES)

- A. Each player who completes the season and who turns in all equipment will receive a 3" trophy in his team's colors.
- B. The trophies will alternate each year from footballs to helmets so that a two-year player will get two different trophies.
- C. The players for the championship team will have "League Champions" engraved on their trophies.

VI. AWARDS: LITTLE RED (THIRD + FOURTH GRADES)

This will be determined by the North Vernon Kiwanis Club.