

2017 AAU Football National Championship Playing Rules

NO HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, JUNIOR VARSITY OR FRESHMAN PLAYERS ARE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2017 AAU FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. IF SUCH A PLAYER(S) IS FOUND IN POOL PLAY, HE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT. IF SUCH A PLAYER IS FOUND IN BRACKET PLAY THE ENTIRE TEAM WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Section I: Equipment

1.1 Required equipment:

1.1.1 Helmet with chin strap

1.1.2 Shoulder pads

1.1.3 Pants

1.1.4 Hip pads

1.1.5 Tail pads

1.1.6 Thigh pads

1.1.7 Knee pads

1.1.8 Jersey

1.1.9 Mouthpiece with “keeper strap”

1.1.10 Athletic Supporter (cup or compression short) - males only

1.1.11 Hip and tail pads must be secured by either a belt, girdle or by snap in pads.

1.2 All players must wear protective equipment at all times.

1.3 Face Shields - May only be used if written physicians request is on file with AAU.

1.3.2 Only clear shields that are of a “snap on nature” can be used.

1.3.3 No tinted shields are permitted.

1.4 Helmets

1.4.1 Award stickers are followed if and only they are given out fairly and equally amongst the players on the teams.

1.4.2 Only helmets with the NOCSAE Seal of Certification shall be worn.

1.4.3 All helmets must have either a double bar or full cage face guard and chin strap.

1.4.4 An authorized NOCSAE inspection company must inspect all helmets, at least once every four (4) years. 1.4.5 AAU helmet stickers may be provided at the National Championship. If they are provided the stickers must be affixed to each participant's helmet.

1.5 All shoulder, hip, kidney, tailbone, thigh and knee pads shall meet the standards of the National Federation of State High School Associations and shall not be altered by players or team staff in any way.

1.6 Game jerseys shall be numbered with 6 to 10 inch numbers on the front and back.

1.7 Sponsor's names or players' names may appear on the game jersey.

1.8 Mouth guards must have a "keeper strap" attached to the face guard in all divisions.

1.9 All males must wear an athletic supporter (cup or compression shorts).

1.10 Shoes can be either tennis shoes or rubber molded cleats.

1.10.1 Removable cleats are permitted, but must be of rubber or graphite composite material.

1.10.2 Cleats may be no longer than ½" in length.

1.10.3 No metal cleats will be allowed.

1.11 Prohibited Equipment:

1.11.1 No jewelry of any kind including but not limited to such things as necklaces, earrings, bracelets and watches.

1.11.1.1 Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are permitted but must be taped to the person and considered a danger during performances or practice.

1.11.2 No electronic equipment is to be used by any team on or off the field.

1.11.3 No head coverings with any type of knots in them are permitted.

1.11.4 A player will be removed from the game for wearing illegal, altered or modified equipment and cannot return until the condition is corrected.

Section 2: Variances from NFHS Football Rule Book

2.1 Unless specifically modified by the AAU Football Committee, all games whether regular season, pre-season or post-season shall be played under the rules of NFHS FOOTBALL. SAFETY ISSUE: No athlete may play tackle football during the same season for two separate teams that compete with separate scheduled games during the same dates.

2.2 Minimum Number of Players

2.2.1 The minimum number of players for a team to be eligible for game play shall be seventeen (17) at the start of the AAU Championship. The AAU Football Committee can allow the participation of a team without the minimum number of players at its discretion.

2.2.2 If a team does not meet the minimum number of players, the AAU representative has the OPTION to call for a forfeit.

2.2.1 In the event that a forfeit is called by the AAU representative, a controlled scrimmage may be held if both teams agree to participate.

2.3 Timeouts

2.3.1 Each team is permitted a maximum of two (2) timeouts per half for pool play and three (3) for bracket play games.

2.3.2 All injury timeouts shall be charged to the “officials” and not to the teams.

2.4 Injuries

2.4.1 Minor cuts or abrasions shall not be considered an injury for the purpose of this rule.

2.4.2 A referee can call a time out for a cut or abrasion.

2.4.3 The player can return to the game after the injury is taken care of.

2.4.4 In the event that a player needs assistance off the playing field by an adult or team member, that player may not re-enter the game until cleared by the EMT/Athletic Trainer.

2.5 Game Ball

2.5.1 The AAU will furnish the game ball. Spalding is the official ball of the 2015 AAU Football National Championships.

2.5.1.1 Ball Size 2.5.1.1.1 8U shall use “Pee Wee” ball.

2.5.1.1.2 10U shall use a “Pee Wee” ball.

2.5.1.1.3 12U shall use a “Junior” ball.

2.5.1.1.4 14U shall use an “Intermediate” ball.

2.6 Time between Quarters

2.6.1 Between the first and second half of the shortened games, there will be one (5) minute intermission.

2.7 Length of Periods

2.7.1 The length of periods of play for all pool and bracket play games will be ten (10) minute halves.

2.7.2 The National Championship Game will have four ten minute quarters, and each team will be allowed three (3) timeouts per half.

2.8 Game Violations

2.8.1 Spearing, butt blocking, face and head tackling are prohibited.

2.8.2 In all age divisions, any deliberate blow delivered to the knees with shoulder pads or helmet in the free blocking zone is prohibited.

2.8.3 An illegal blocking foul with a ten (10) yard penalty will be assessed to the offending team.

2.8.3.1 If this is determined to be a flagrant, the referee may call a personal foul with a fifteen (15) yard penalty.

2.8.3.2 Any coach instructing their athletes to use these methods shall be guilty of a major violation and ejected from the game, and possibly suspended from the tournament. The coach may also be brought before the National AAU Football infractions committee.

2.9 Timing Device

2.9.1 The game officials will provide the timing device.

2.10 Scoring

2.10.1 Touchdown 6 Points

2.10.2 Point after touchdown

2.10.2.1 When kicked - 1 point. When run or pass - 2 points.

2.10.3 Safety 2 points

2.10.4 Field Goal 3 points

2.10.5 When playing on a field without goal posts, no kicking will be permitted.

2.10.6 When playing with one goal post, each team can use the upright after scoring a touchdown for the point after touchdown, or for a field goal try.

2.10.7 There will be a running clock if a team is winning by 42 points or more.

2.11 Forfeited Games

2.11.1 All forfeits will result in a score of 21-0 for the purpose of standings and seeding.

2.12 Tie Games

2.12.1 In the National Championship Tournament ties shall be broken in the following manner: In the event of a tiebreaker each team will take the ball to the 10- yard line for four downs and continue until a winner is declared either by score or by penetration yardage.

2.13 Ties in Pool Play

2.13.1 If there is a two way tie, head to head record will determine placement.

2.13.2 If there is a three way tie, then points allowed will be used to determine placement. The team that allows the most points will be third, the second most allowed will be second, and the least points allowed will be first.

2.14 Game Rules

2.14.1 All NFHS Football 2015 Rule Book rules will be used for National Championships.

2.14.2 Exceptions: The AAU National Committee may modify or pass additional rules for the National Championships which would be provided to the teams at the National Championship Coaches Meeting