

PLAYING REGULATION 7.0 - FOOTBALL

1. **SAFETY GUIDELINES:** Each HSSAA Member School shall ensure that the Physical Education Safety Guidelines - Secondary Inter School Module 1999, outlined according to the following Critical Components: EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR, FACILITIES, SPECIAL RULES / INSTRUCTION and SUPERVISION be adhered to at all times. Specific details on the Critical Components will be provided at the Pre-Season Coaches Meeting.
2. **AGES:**
SENIOR: The individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/ her 19th birth day by January 1st, prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
JUNIOR: The individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/ her 15th birth day by January 1st, prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
3. **EVENTS:**
There will be competition for Junior and Senior HSSAA Championships in the following Divisions:
 1. Division-1 Senior
 2. Division-2 Senior
 3. Division-3 Senior
 4. Division-1 Junior
 5. Division-2 Junior
4. **ELIGIBILITY:** As governed by H.S.S.A.A. Constitution, Article XI, Section V.
5. **ENTRIES:** Each H.S.S.A.A. Member School may enter one team per age category. No limit to the number of players who may dress for any game, as long as every player can be properly and safely equipped while playing.
6. **RULE BOOK:** Canadian Inter-Collegiate Football Rules for the current year will be used except **at the junior level**, teams in possession of the ball shall have 4 downs to gain 10 yards.
7. **OFFICIALS:** To be the highest caliber possible. There will be three (3) officials for Junior league and playoff games. There will be four (4) officials for Senior league and playoff games and for playoff games and for the Championship games in both Tiers, there will be five officials. Costs for extra officials to be borne by the competing schools.
8. **UNIFORMS:** Not specified.
9. **STARTING TIME:** See General Regulations.
10. **AWARDS:** For all divisions – Senior/Junior – there will be:
 - a. A Trophy for the winning team
 - b. A Plaque for the Finalist team
11. **BOWL REPRESENTATION:** The Senior Halton Division I Champion will represent Halton in the GHSB Playoffs.
The Junior Halton Division 1 Champion will represent Halton in the Junior Metro Bowl Playoffs if scheduling permits.

12. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- A) All games will consist of 12 minute quarters, and a staff member should be assigned the duties of chief timer. NOTE: The referee has the right to take the watch from the chief timer.
- B) All afternoon games will start at 3:30 PM until standard time sets in, then all league games will start at 3:00 PM. In the case of afternoon double headers, the first game shall begin at 1:30 PM with the second game to follow. All playoff games will start at 2:00 PM. If an earlier or later starting time is required, it must be by mutual consent of both teams and the officials must be given 24 hours notice of change.
- C) The deadline for postponing games is 24 hours prior to the date of game. The Chief Referee and the appropriate Convenors must be notified in advance.
- D) It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that competent stick and down-box men are available. They should contact the officials before game time for instructions.
- E) The CIS game ball will be used in all competitions and is to be supplied by the home team. No substitution of the game ball will be permitted except at the referee's discretion.

F) Football Tie breaking Procedure – League Standings

If two teams are tied:

1. The team that won the game during league play shall get the higher position.

If three or more teams are tied:

1. If one team defeated the other tied teams during league play it shall get the higher position. The remaining teams will revert back to the league games involving the tied teams and apply the tie breaking procedures from the beginning.
2. If one team was defeated by the other tied teams it shall receive the lowest position. The remaining teams will revert back to the league games involving the tied teams and apply the tie breaking procedures from the beginning.
3. The team with the greater point differential (Points For- Points Against to a maximum 17 points/game) among the tied teams in league play, involving the tied teams only, shall get the higher position.
4. The team with the best overall record (wins vs losses) between common opponents including the tied teams shall get the higher position.
5. The team with the greater point differential (Points For – Points Against to a maximum 17 points/game) among common opponents shall get the higher position.
6. The team with the greater point differential (Points For-Points Against to a maximum 17 points/game) among all opponents shall get the higher position.
7. The winner of a coin toss shall receive the higher position.

G) VIDEO TAPES: Video taping is permissible at all games and scrimmages.

H) HEADSETS: Coaches may use headsets providing that same are provided for opponents. Notice must be given at pre-season meeting of usage of electronic communication. This applies to Senior play only. If these devices are employed, the spotter must remain at the same mutually agreed upon location throughout the game.

I) GAME FORFEITURE: In the event of a Regular Season Game Forfeiture, the Athletic Convenor shall strike a committee of coaches comprised of three (3) randomly selected Coaches from the forfeited team's Division and the Athletic Convenor or designate.

A meeting shall take place at least (72) hours before the forfeiting team's next scheduled game. This meeting may take place in person or via telephone conference call and will determine an appropriate sanction, if any, against the forfeiting team. Decisions shall be provided in writing and forwarded via fax or e-mail to all affected schools, Principals and Physical Education Department Heads within (48) hours of the forfeiting team's next scheduled game.

Possible Sanctions Include:

- (i) None
- (ii) Forfeit of remainder of the season
- (iii) Forfeit of remainder of the season and playoffs
- (iv) Forfeit of playoffs
- (v) Other to be determined by Committee

All decisions invoking sanctions are subject to appeal through the H.S.S.A.A. Board of Reference Appeal Process. (Article XVIII).

J) Any player or coach who is ejected from an H.S.S.A.A. sponsored game will be automatically prohibited from dressing for and participating in the subsequently scheduled H.S.S.A.A. game.

K) GUIDELINE FOR FOOTBALL COACHES:

1. An advisory committee will be formed consisting of the Athletic Convenor, In-school Football Advisor/Director and a former Football coach not presently coaching. This committee will:

- a) Assist in the ranking of teams
- b) Investigate any major problems (eg - player/coach expulsion)
- c) Ensure the proper "SPIRIT" of the game is followed
- d) Fan behaviour

2. It is proposed that the Advisory Committee investigate games where there was an obvious lopsided score.

3. The following guidelines should be followed:

- a) While points spread do count in the case of a tie, it is only up to a maximum of a 17 point difference.
- b) After the 17 point difference is well established, an effort is made not to dramatically increase it.

4. A football team that is found to be continually contravening these guidelines should be counseled by the Head of Physical Education for that school or, upon continued infraction, the Advisory Committee may investigate and make further recommendations.

5. Divisional Assignment

Preamble: At the start of each season all teams at the senior level are in the same division. Based upon the following criteria, coaches are to provide all the necessary information in order to permit the Athletic Director(s) and the Advisory Committee to place your team in the appropriate division.

The criteria is as follows:

- Previous Year's Division:
- Previous year's record
- Tradition over the last 3 years
- Returning Senior players: Key positions & numbers (QB, RB, LB, Linemen)
- # of 5th year players
- Junior Record and Division level
- Number of players graduating to Senior: Key positions
- Coaching Staff – numbers and experience
- Size of School
- Division Preference

L) PRE-SEASON PRACTISES:

- a) A team may start practices under coaches' supervision on the first Monday prior to the Labour Day Weekend.
- b) Full equipment may be used at these practices.
- c) Violations of the above conditions will result in the suspension of the coach(es) involved, for the upcoming season.
- d) Spring practices will be permitted after June 1st running one (1) week in length only. No equipment is permitted at these practices. Refer to Risk Management Policy for participation.