



## Football

### 1) **Eligibility:**

- a) EACH team MUST submit two (2) copies of the roster form, to the Diocesan Athletic Office, BEFORE the specified due date.
- b) Rosters must be **complete** and include the Principal or Pastor signature.
- c) Incomplete rosters will be returned, which could then cause the roster to be late.
- d) Only participants listed on the roster can play for a team.

### 2) **Release / Authorization Forms:**

- a) EACH participant listed on the roster must have a Release / Authorization Form, signed by a Parent or Guardian, on file in the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.

### 3) **Participation Fees:**

- a) Participation fees are due in the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.
- b) Participation fees will be determined by the Diocesan Athletic Office.

### 4) **Helmet Forms:**

- a) The helmet form must be signed by the Pastor, Principal or Athletic Director AND the Head Football Coach.
- b) The helmet form shows that ALL helmets are NOCSAE approved.
- c) Helmets **must** be certified before the start of the practice season.
- d) Helmet forms **must** be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office by the specified due date.
- e) Helmets **must** be recertified every two (2) years.

### 5) **Weigh-Ins:**

- a) There will be no weight limit on the interior lineman. The maximum weight limit for all other players will be 155 lbs. for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 135 lbs. for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- b) The interior lineman will be identified by markings on their helmets.
- c) All weigh-ins will be conducted ½ hour before each game. Players have until game time to make the weight according to regulations.

6) **Rules:**

- a) PIAA Rules will control the parochial league games with the exception of those rules specified herein.
- b) The teams in the parochial league are NOT permitted to play scrimmages or games with any independent teams. Any contact with independent teams must be approved by the Diocesan Athletic Office.
- c) However, the teams in the parochial league may play games against other Catholic Schools from other areas with the approval of the Diocesan Athletic Office.
- d) All teams will be allowed a minimum of 10 minutes on-field warm-up.
- e) Games may not be started before the scheduled start time.
- f) Varsity games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
- g) Junior Varsity games will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
- h) The starting date for practice will be on the Monday approximately 26 days before the opening day of the season.

7) **PAROCHIAL LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES:**

- a) There will be no weight limit on the interior lineman. The maximum weight limit for all other players will be 155 lbs. for varsity players and 135 lbs. for junior varsity players.
- b) The interior lineman will be identified by markings (stripes) on their helmets.
- c) All weigh-ins will be conducted ½ hour before each game. Players have until game time to make the weight according to regulations.
- d) No “STRIPED PLAYER” is allowed to line up in any offensive formation where they would be eligible to throw, carry or catch the ball.
- e) On offense, the two outside players in any formation cannot be a “STRIPED PLAYER” as they would then become eligible receivers. They must be “covered” by an outer eligible player.
- f) On offense, no “STRIPED PLAYER” is to line up in the backfield in any formation, as they would become eligible as a ball carrier or receiver.
- g) A defensive “STRIPED PLAYER” cannot line up outside the outside shoulder of the offensive tackle.
- h) A defensive “STRIPED PLAYER” cannot line up off the line of scrimmage as a linebacker or defensive back at any time. **PENALTY – ON THE FIRST INFRACTION... A FLAG IS THROWN AND THE VIOLATING TEAM IS WARNED, ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> INFRACTION AND ALL SUBSUQUENT PENALTIES A DEAD BALL, 5 YARD PENALTY WILL BE ENFORCED.**
- i) No “STRIPED PLAYER” can line up as a punter or place kicker in any offensive formation as this would make the player eligible to carry, throw or catch the ball. No “STRIPED PLAYER” is permitted to kick the ball in any formation; including field goals, extra point attempts and punts.
- j) No “STRIPED PLAYER” is to line up as a kick returner in either punt return formations or field goal attempt formations.
- k) ALL INCLUSIVE... No play is to be designed to purposely hand or pass the ball to any “STRIPED PLAYER”

- l) The “mercy rule” is the same as the PIAA... the clock shall continue to run if the difference in score becomes 35 or more points after half-time.
- m) There shall be no kickoffs at parochial grade school games. The ball will be placed by the official at the appropriate yard marker.
- n) Punts shall be allowed. On the varsity level, a punted ball can be returned. On the junior varsity level, a punted ball shall be declared dead from the point it is **TOUCHED** by either team, or if the ball is not touched by either team, the ball will be declared dead where it stops.
- o) (JV specific) A punt must take place a minimum of five (5) yards behind the line of scrimmage and between the offensive tackles**
- p) A fake punt is permitted in a Varsity game; however, there shall be no fake punt in a junior varsity game because the punt must be declared prior to the kicking of the football in a junior varsity game. No declaration of a punt is required in a Varsity game. In a junior varsity game, once the ball is **kicked**, the offensive team is permitted to release two players to down the punted ball. The receiving team is also permitted to place two players on the field to receive the ball.
- q) The defensive team may rush if a team elects to kick an extra point or a field goal. No “STRIPED PLAYER” will be allowed to kick a field goal or extra point.

8) **Officials:**

- a) The Erie County Football Officials Association will assign the football officials

9) **Postponements:**

- a) **THERE IS A MANDATORY 30 MINUTE WAIT AFTER EACH INSTANCE OF LIGHTNING**
- b) Typically postponements are not allowed. In such cases as special Parish Affairs (Anniversaries, Confirmations, etc.) a postponement request may be allowed with the approval of the Diocesan Athletic Office. This request must be submitted to the Diocesan Athletic Office **at least 72 hours prior to the game.**
- c) Postponed games will have to be played prior to the scheduled end of the regular season.
- d) If a postponed game is not played before the scheduled end of the regular season, the team requesting the postponement may forfeit the game.
- e) Postponements made because of the weather, condition of the playing field, medical emergencies, etc., will be rescheduled by the Diocesan Football Coordinator and the Diocesan Athletic Office.

10) **Standings:**

- a) Junior Varsity football will have NO standings, champions or trophies.
- b) For Varsity games, the winning team is responsible for calling in the result of each game to the Diocesan Athletic Office.
- c) Official standings will be kept at the Diocesan Athletic Office.

11) **Coaches:**

- a) ALL coaches must be listed on the roster and have Child Abuse Clearances and a Criminal Record Check on file in the Diocesan Athletic Office before he / she begins to coach.
- b) ONLY rostered coaches are permitted to coach on the sidelines with the team.
- c) Failure to adhere to this could result in forfeiting the game and / or season.

12) Any coach that is ejected from a game will automatically receive a minimum one game suspension (the next regularly scheduled game). All decisions on any further suspensions will be made by the Diocesan Athletic Office.

13) **Coaches breaking any of the above policies may be suspended for a minimum one game (the next regularly scheduled game). All decisions on any further suspensions will be made by the Diocesan Athletic Office.**