

**Southwest Youth Football
General Rules**

EQUIPMENT

- A. Helmets for all participants shall be clearly designated as noc-saf
- B. No metal cleats will be allowed

ELGIBILITY

- A. Player must be a resident in the school district of the town they sign up for OR attend the school in which they play for.
 - a. In special circumstances the President may allow a short term exception for players from surrounding towns that do not have youth football to play.
 - b. Long term exceptions must be voted on and approved by the Board.
- B. Players shall be ineligible for competition if they are the age listed below on or before the 1st day of August and are not in higher school grade:

6th Grade – Shall not be 13 by August 1

5th Grade – Shall not be 12 by August 1

4th Grade – Shall not be 11 by August 1

3rd Grade – Shall not be 10 by August 1

- a. Using 2nd graders as needed to supplement for low numbers is a local town decision. The town must have a policy and it must be consistent. Players must meet all other eligibility requirements.
- b. No player may play more than 5 years in this program.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The Joplin Football Officials Association will be responsible for supplying at least three (3)-licensed officials for each game. The home team will be responsible for paying the officials for each of their games, 2023 rate of \$75.00 per official per game if there are 3 officials. If there are four (4) officials then the rate is \$55.00 per official per game.
- B. No parent or fan shall be allowed upon the playing field
- C. Parents and fans must stay behind the cable or in the stands
- D. All coaches and coaching staff must be clearly identified
- E. All members of the line and chain crew must be at least thirteen (13) years of age
- F. Each organization must have a minimum play rule that is consistent and enforced at the local level.
- G. Gate Fee – Three-Dollar (\$4.00) per ADULT, Two-Dollar (\$2.00) per student twelve (12) years of age through High School, shall be charged to enter games. Cheerleaders, Cheerleading sponsors, Football players, Coaches and Game Officials are exempt.
- H. Mercy Rule – The officials will follow a 28 point Mercy Rule. If at any point in the second half of the game, one team leads the other by 28 or more points, the officials will initiate a “running clock.”
- I. Overtime – If a game ends in a tie, the officials will administer “Sudden Death” type overtime. The officials will conduct a coin toss to determine which team will receive the ball first. The ball will be placed on the 10 yard line and that team will have four (4) downs in which to score. After that time,

the defensive team will receive the ball on the 10-yard line and will have four (4) downs in which to score.

- J. Each player will be required to have a doctor's physical annually before they will be allowed to participate.
- K. Sportsmanship – If at any time, a coach receives an "Unsportsman like Penalty" that coach will be ineligible to coach the following conference game. Two "Unsportsman like Penalties" in a season will demonstrate the inability of the coach to be a positive example to young players and will therefore not be allowed to coach the remainder of the season.
- L. In case of inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances regarding the modification of game times and locations the following guidelines are to be followed sequentially.
 - a. The host town may postpone the start of the games up to 5 hours.
 - b. No game should be scheduled to start after 8 pm.
 - c. The host town may secure another site(s) to play the games.
 - d. Two sites may be used to play the games.
 - e. If the home team can NOT host the games on the regularly scheduled day then the "visiting team" has the option of using their facility to play the games on the regularly scheduled day.
 - f. Teams can play on Sunday with games times starting at 2pm or later.
 - g. Other reasonable solutions may be permissible if agreed upon by both town Presidents (representatives) and the Southwest Conference President.