

# 2025-2026 National Youth Sports Nevada AYF Nevada



## Official Tackle Football Rules and Regulations

Updated July 15th, 2024

### Mission Statement

NYS Nevada was founded in 1999 by National Youth Sports based in Peoria, AZ. Since then, it has grown to the largest football league in Nevada. The Nevada Franchise of NYS was purchased by Nevada-based Oracle Athletics LLC in June of 2012. Oracle Athletics has the dedicated manpower, resources, and dedication to make sure that NYS Nevada will continue to be the #1 youth sports organization in Nevada. NYS Nevada was granted the American Youth Football charter for the state of Nevada in June of 2016 and with AYF will continue to work to provide a safe, fun, and fair environment for all athletes, volunteers, and parents.

American Youth Football, Inc, established in 1996, is a support services organization, dedicated to giving back to communities by encouraging the positive development of youth athletes through their association with adult leaders in the sport of American football and cheer. Guidelines are established to ensure that players play in an atmosphere of learning with a competitive balance between teams. Currently, Ben Joffe, the Director of National Youth Sports Nevada serves as the Tackle Football Commissioner for the league as well as the Chairman for the Desert Mountain Region of AYF. Please direct any questions to him via email at [ben@nysnevada.com](mailto:ben@nysnevada.com) regarding these rules.

## Section 1 – Definition of League Age

- Each player's league age will be determined as of July 31st of the year the Fall Season is set to begin. For example, July 31st, 2025, will be used for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 seasons. No age exceptions will be made for any divisions. As an example of League Age, a child born on 7/31/13 would be League Age 12. A child born on 8/1/13 would be League Age 11.

## Section 2 – Divisions

All Divisions will be UNWEIGHTED. 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Max) & 14U (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Max).

The U will always stand for UNDER utilizing the League Age Date.

There are NO High School athletes permitted. Players must be in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade or below. This must be proven during the certification process.

The 6U Division will utilize the 8 Man ADM Rookie Tackle Rule Book

## Section 3 – Player Registration and Certification

- All players must be registered with National Youth Sports Nevada and paid in full prior to participating in any game.
- The registration deadline to be eligible to play in the first game is 8/31/2025 for the Fall 2025 season. The deadline to be eligible to participate in the season is 8/31/2025.
- Player Certification is done 100% through National Sports ID (NSID). All documents must be approved through this site & the player must be "Certified" & on the team roster. All documents will go through this site. [www.nationalsportsid.com](http://www.nationalsportsid.com)
- The certification deadline for opening day is 8/31/2025.
- Players can only change teams prior to 5 PM on 8/31/2025 for the Fall 2025 Season.
- Once a player is fully certified, they will automatically be added to the team's digital player ID card file. That file will be used to check in players at every game.

## Section 4 – Player Equipment

- Each participating player must wear the following pieces of equipment, which cannot be altered. Any attempt to alter the required player protection will result in a penalty or possible suspension.
  - o A standard helmet and facemask are required. The helmet must be properly secured with a four snap chin strap.
  - o A seven-piece pant pad set consisting of hip pads, thigh pads, knee pads, and a tailbone protector.
  - o Football pants that cover all pant pads & cover the kneecaps.
  - o Enclosed shoes comprised of rubber cleats or regular tennis shoes.
  - o Shoulder pads that are fully covered by the player's jersey.
  - o A mouthpiece that is not clear or white.
  - o Any player that wears a visor must make sure the equipment is clear and does not tint at any point. Tinted glasses are allowed.
  - o No jewelry.
- The head coach is responsible for confirming with the game official that all players are properly equipped.

- If a player is missing equipment or participating with illegal equipment, the player must make the proper correction before participating any further in the game.
- An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty of 15 yards will be enforced for player's wearing improper equipment during a play.

## Section 5 – Game Field & Game Day

- The game field will be played on a field 120 yards long (One hundred yards of playing field with two ten-yard end-zones). The field will be 50 yards wide.
- Each field will be marked with yard markers.
- A soft, flexible pylon will mark the four inside corners of both end zones.
- The league will provide a down indicator and a first down chain set (10-yard). The visiting team is responsible for providing volunteers to run the down indicator and first down chains during the game.
- The game officials will operate the game clock on the field if the scoreboard is unavailable or not functioning.
- The field will be for players and certified coaches only. Non-coaches will be required to remain in the stands. Certified sideline personnel must wear their official league Coaches Badges at all times.

## Section 6 – Uniform & Game Equipment

- Teams are required to wear matching uniforms with numbers visible on both the front and back of the uniform.
- No two players will be allowed to play with the same jersey number.
- While positional jersey numbers are not a requirement, teams should attempt to utilize football standard numbering where they can.
- All uniforms are required to have the NYS Patch and the AYF Patch on the shoulders and visible for all games. Players without the proper patch will not be allowed to participate in games. Teams that are not in proper uniforms are subject to a fine for each game they are unable to have proper uniforms.
- The Wilson Football is the official football of NYS Nevada Tackle Football. While other footballs will be accepted for gamedays, the football size will be predicated off the Wilson Football.
- The 7U, 8U, & 9U Divisions will use a Wilson K-2 Ball or one of equal size.
- The 10U, 11U & 12U Division will use a Wilson TDJ Ball or one of equal size.
- The 13U Division will use a Wilson TDY Ball or one of equal size.
- The 14U Division will have the option to use a TDY or TDS Ball, or one of equal size.
- A team can choose to use a football larger than the size allotted for their division but cannot use a smaller football.

## Section 7 – Player Pregame Check

- All players once properly certified will have a digital National Sports ID Card. That ID Card will be present on a team set on a tablet with the site officials that will be at each field.
- 30 minutes prior to kick off each team is required to check in and complete their pre-game certification.
- Players will line up in alphabetical order so NYS Site Directors can check to make sure each player matches the ID Card, the players jersey number is correct, and to make sure non-registered players do not participate in the game.
- If a player does not show up prior to kickoff, he is ineligible for the game.

- Players must check in for a minimum of 4 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. If a player is injured, he can still check in for a game under the designation of IR. However, he must be present at team check in to earn that designation.
- NYS Staff reserves the right to recheck players at any time during the game. This can and will be done to ensure players' safety and integrity.

## Section 8 – Coaching

- All coaches are required to have passed a background check with NYS Nevada. That can be done by going to [bgcheck.nysnevada.com](http://bgcheck.nysnevada.com). This is required of all volunteers that expect to be on the sideline during games. The background checks are \$15 and must be taken prior to taking the field.
- All coaches are also required to be either AYF Coaching Certified or USA Football Certified. This certification must be present. The AYF Certification can be done at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/football-tackling> while the USA Football Certification can be done at [usafootball.com](http://usafootball.com).
- Once completed, each coach's certificate needs to be emailed into the league office.
- Coaches must also be listed on the team's final coaching roster by August 15th. Coaches will only be eligible to remain on the sidelines during the games/divisions that they are listed on the coaching staff form.
- Teams will be allowed a maximum of 8 Coaches per sideline. This includes the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, & Team Parents. The EMT or any other medical personnel does not count against this number and will be encouraged to be present. This does not include the chain crew or the 2 maximum water personnel who must be under age 18.
- Teams will also be granted a "media" person for each team.
- Associations with more than 4 teams will also be granted an extra "Association President" sideline pass to help enact more control on sidelines.

## Section 9 – Coaching Field Rules

- All Coach ejections will be treated in the most serious of manners. Coaches ejected from games will now also be subject to a \$100 fine. All monies collected from the fine will go to the AYF players' travel fund. Fines must be paid within 3 days of receiving the penalty and prior to the teams next game.
- While it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to control his Assistant Coaches, the ejection of an Assistant Coach or a similar sideline personnel does not require the ejection of the Head Coach. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to help remove the offending ejected Assistant Coach so the game can continue. If the Head Coach cannot gain control of his sideline at this point, the game will be called and result in a mercy loss for the offending team.
- Electronic communication devices are prohibited when it comes to players communicating with coaches. Coaches may use communication devices with one another, if these instruments do not affect play or involve communication with players and are restricted to sideline use only from each team's own side of the field.
- ONE coach is allowed on the field in the 7U Division. Prior to the snap both the offensive and defensive coaches must be 15 yards from the line of scrimmage. The on-field coach must not interfere with the play of the game. Once the quarterback goes under center, both on field coaches must remain silent until the ball is snapped. Interfering with the play will result in a 15-yard penalty.
- Only fully certified coaches with completed background checks will be allowed on the sideline. They will be listed on the teams coaching list & given a wristband for each weekend's contest to clear them onto the field level.

## Section 10 – EMT, HitCheck, & Player Safety

- Each team must have at least one volunteer staff that is first aid certified at all practices, games, and team events. NYS will issue the team's EMT a NYS EMT photo identification card. The individual must present a valid First Aid/CPR certification card or certificate to obtain the NYS EMT Card.
- All teams must have a first aid kit at all practices, games, and team functions.
- If a major injury occurs during the game, the volunteer medical personnel for the game and NYS staff will make a discretionary call as to whether the game is to continue.
- Each Team & Player is encouraged to take advantage of the included "HitCheck" app purchased by the league for each team. Players should take a baseline "HitCheck" prior to the season. This should be taken care of by the EMT or the Team Manager for each team. Each organization or team can set up their own.
- If a player suffers a head injury during a game, he can only return to action by completing a "Green" HitCheck test. Any player that receives a "Red" test result must present a doctor note to return to play.

## Section 11 – Roster Regulations

- Each Team is required to have a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 36 players on their roster to be considered a team and be placed on the schedule. A coach must obtain a waiver from the league office to go above this number.
- During NYS Nevada League play there are no play minimums in effect for any division.
- During AYF Regional and National Play the AYF standard minimum play will be in effect.
- Teams may begin a game with a minimum of 10 players. If a team drops below 9 players for more than 2 plays, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. The game can continue at the discretion of the teams, however as a scrimmage to provide the players a chance to receive the ability to participate. If this occurs, the referees will not continue to run the game and the game must be run by the remaining coaches.
- To be eligible for the playoffs, a player must be checked in for a minimum of 4 regular season games.
- Dual Participation, otherwise known as participating on more than one tackle football team or division, is strictly prohibited. Having a player or players do so can and will result in a forfeiture of games and removal from AYF Regional or National play.

## Section 12 – Forfeitures, Mercy Rule, and Playoff Tie Breakers

- All forfeited games will result in a 35-0 final score. If a team forfeits a game for any reason, they are subject to a fine to cover the field and referee costs.
- Mercy Rule: Once a team has a lead by 5 touchdowns or 35 points the score is officially frozen. At the losing teams' discretion, the game can be continued as a scrimmage game without further score being kept. We ENCOURAGE all teams to utilize this time to include players that may not get ample playing time to help train and further develop skills.
- Mercy Rule #2: Once a game goes into mercy scoring, we will no longer do kickoffs. Teams will simply take possession at their own 30-yard line.
- The following will be the playoff tie breaker system:
  - o The first tie breaker will be head-to-head results.
  - o The second tie breaker will be points allowed.
  - o The third tie breaker will be a coin toss.

- Special note. If there is no clear winner of a tie breaker in the case of a multi way tie, points allowed will be the tie breaker.

**Unless otherwise amended below, the current year's NFHS (National Federation of State High School Association) Laws of the Game shall apply. NFHS Laws of the Game and other resources are available at [www.nfhs.com](http://www.nfhs.com).**

### Section 13 – In Game Timing Rules

- All Division games will run with a 10-minute quarter. NFHS rules regarding the stopping of the clock will apply throughout the game.
- The only exception to the stop clock will be in a game where the mercy rule has come into effect. At this point, the clock will run except for time outs and injuries until the game is over.
- During the playoffs, any game that has gone into the mercy rule will be over at that time.
- There will be a one-minute intermission between the first and second quarter, as well as the third and fourth quarter.
- There will be a 5-minute halftime between the second and third quarters. NYS Staff & Referees may change the length of halftime based on the day's game schedule.
- Each team will receive 3-time outs per half. All time outs will be 30 seconds. Unused timeouts do not carry over.
- The offense is given thirty seconds from the spotting of the ball to the time they must snap the ball to begin the next play.

### Section 14 – Pregame & Kickoffs

- There will be no pregame "faceoff" or other intimidating gestures by teams allowed. Any attempt to do so will result in a minimum of personal foul penalties and a maximum of a forfeiture of the game.
- No team may have more than four captains and only one player shall be designated as the team spokesperson.
- Each half of the game will be started by a kickoff. The Game Officials, in the presence of both teams' field captains, will toss a coin to determine possession at the start of the game. The visiting team will call "heads" or "tails." The winning team must select to kick, receive, or defer.
- **FOR THE 7U DIVISION ONLY:** There are no kickoffs. Following a score or at the beginning of a half, possession will begin at the team's 30-yard line.
- Onside kicks are allowed in all divisions where kickoffs occur.
- All kickoffs will take place from the 40-yard line unless a penalty has been assessed.
- Free kicks after a safety will take place from the 20-yard line.

### Section 15 – Punts, Field Goals, & Extra Points

- **FOR THE 7U DIVISION ONLY:** There are no punts in this division. If a team declares a punt, they will earn a 30-yard walk-off from the spot of the ball. This can only be done on 4<sup>th</sup> down.
- **FOR THE 7U DIVISION ONLY:** Teams will have the option of a 1 Point conversion from the 3 yard line and a 2 point conversion from the 5 yard line.
- **FOR THE 8U AND 9U DIVISIONS ONLY:** Punts & field goals in this division will be live plays.
- All extra points will be attempted from the 3-yard line. A kick will be worth 2-points while a running or passing play will be worth 1-point.



## Section 16 – In Game Rules

- Blocking below the waste will coincide with NFHS rules to teach the players how they will be blocking once they start High School Football the proper way.
- Players can be substituted only on a dead ball. Substituted players must leave the field at the sideline from which his or her team occupies.
- Interceptions and fumbles are live in all divisions.
- If anything, other than a hand or foot of the ball carrier touches the ground the player is down, whether touched by a player or not.
- The offense must have at least seven players lined up on the line of scrimmage for every play. Five offensive linemen are ineligible receivers. The defense does not have a minimum number of players required to be on the line of scrimmage.
- **FOR THE 7U DIVISION ONLY:** No individual player may be lined up directly over the center on defense; the center cannot be hit directly from the front (to allow snap exchange and center time to raise head). Both gaps to either side may be rushed.
- There will be no ties. In the event regulation play (4 quarters) ends in a tie, the game will go into overtime. Overtime will follow NFHS rules with each team getting a possession at their opponents 10-yard line. First possession will be determined by coin toss (Visitor calls). The winner will choose offense or defense while the other team will choose the end at which the play will occur. Fumbles and interceptions cannot be returned for defensive points. Teams will continue to play under overtime rules until a winner is determined.
- Player celebrations must fall within the normal AYF & NFHS rules, with a 3 second team only celebration permitted. Any celebrations that taunt the other team, players, coaches, or spectators will result in a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Any celebrations that delay the game in any way are also subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

## Section 17 – Disciplinary Issues

- Any issues with a coach, parent, staff, contractor, or league policy must be made to the league coordinator in writing.
- All participants, parents, guardians, and coaches are required to abide by the league's code of ethics. Any violation of the codes of conduct may result in suspension or removal from the league.
- The league coordinators will review all written issues and determine a resolution.
- The league will have final judgement in all rulings. NYS Nevada has the authority to suspend or permanently expel any individuals without a refund to uphold the standards and expectations of the league.
- Field coordinators are an extension of the league office. Their decisions will be treated as such, and they will be treated with respect.
- Field coordinators can issue a penalty on teams for unsportsmanlike conduct due to the actions of any parent, spectator, or coach who does not comply with league and facility rules and regulations.
- Fighting by a player, coach, or spectator will result in an automatic ejection. Fighting will also result in a minimum one-week suspension. This includes striking, kicking, or kneeling any player or spectator, and intentional contact with an official.
- Two un-sportsmanlike fouls by a player or spectator (Referee may eject a player, coach, and spectator for one unsportsmanlike conduct depending on severity of action).
- Any other act that is unruly, rough, and/or flagrant

- A spectator violating the parent line or cautioned parent area. This includes violating the rules of the facility the game is taking place at.

<p>NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS <b>PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT</b></p>
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**We pledge to follow the National Youth Sports Player's Code of Conduct:**

I will remember that games are played for **fun!**

I will display good sportsmanship ahead of my own personal desire to win.

I will demonstrate good sportsmanship regardless of the score by acting in a positive manner towards all players, officials, parents and coaches.

I will show respect to all game officials, coaches, players, and parents and never act in a manner that would be disrespectful toward them.

I will not use drugs, tobacco or alcohol at any National Youth Sports practice or game and will remind others on my team not to do so.

I will shake hands with the other team at the conclusion of all games.

I will shake hands with the officials at the conclusion of all games.

**I understand that I will be suspended from the league for violation of this Player's Code of Conduct.**



<p>NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS <b>PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT</b></p>
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**We pledge to follow the National Youth Sports Parent's Code of Conduct:**

I will remember that youth sports are played for **fun!**

I will be a role model for my team demonstrating how to treat other players, parents, officials, and coaches with respect at all times.

I will demonstrate good sportsmanship regardless of the score by acting in a positive manner towards all players, officials, parents and coaches.

I will show respect to all referees, officials, or umpires and never act in a manner that would be disrespectful toward them.

I will be an encouragement to all players on all teams regardless of the score.

I will place my child's emotional and physical well-being ahead of my own personal desire to win.

I will volunteer to help my child's team by coaching, officiating, planning team parties, team pictures, and team trophy orders, phone calls and/or other needs.

I will not use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at any National Youth Sports practices or games and will remind other parents not to do so. **ANY USE WILL RESULT IN AN EJECTION FROM THE FACILITY AND MAY FORCE THE LEAGUE TO REMOVE THE PLAYER FROM THE LEAGUE.**

**I will remember that the game is played for the youth and not for the adults.**

I will encourage my child to shake hands with the other team at the conclusion of all games.

I will encourage my child to shake hands with the officials at the conclusion of all games.

**I understand that myself, and possibly my child, will be suspended without warning from the league for any violation of this Parent's Code of Conduct.**

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES**

- 1. The players, head coach, and assistant coaches can be in the coach's box on the sidelines. The coach's box is between the twenty-five-yard lines. These individuals must have proper identification to be on the playing side of the parent line. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fifteen-yard unsportsmanlike conduct. All other parents, friends, and/or relatives must stay in the designated area, even if you are filming. Ladders are prohibited at each site to protect the children, fans, and staff.**
- 2. Profanity and arguing with any game official, NYS staff, or opposing parent/coach is not allowed, ZERO TOLERANCE. This will be strictly enforced. Failure to comply will be handled as follows:**

**Coach will be ejected from the game and suspended by the league for up to three games. Coaches can only be reinstated at the league coordinator's discretion.**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following week's game. If the problem persists, then the child of the parent/guardian may be suspended for one game.**

**Players will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following week's game. If the problem persists, then the child may be suspended for the season and banned from future participation in the league. All Suspensions remain at the discretion of the league commissioner.**

- 3. In addition, any individual who is ejected from a game for any reason is subject to banishment from the league. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THOSE IN VIOLATION.**
- 4. NYS considers the code of conduct sheet enclosed in this packet as the first warning to all individuals participating in the league.**
- 5. Any parents found engaging in verbal or physical violence with other parents, coaches, referees, or NYS staff will be suspended indefinitely from the league.**
- 6. Any player, coach, or parent that is ejected from a game is automatically suspended for the next game played by their team. This suspension is mandatory and cannot be reduced or removed, though it can be lengthened at league discretion.**
- 7. There is no smoking, smokeless tobacco, or alcohol of any kind permitted at any NYS Field. Any parent breaking this rule will automatically be ejected from the league.**