

A. **DISTRICT PLAY.** Teams must qualify for the state play-offs by competition in district play.

B. **CALENDAR**

1. Starting date for football conditioning is shown on the CURRENT TAPPS CALENDAR

A. The first three days of football practice shall be conducted without contact equipment except helmets and dummies.

1. On days when more than one practice is conducted, the rest and recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice will be increased to two hours.

2. Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days in Fall Soccer and Football which begin practice prior to the school year, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

3. During the acclimatization period in football, if more than one practice is conducted on the same day, the second practice shall be a teaching period or walkthrough practice only with no conditioning, contact activities or equipment permitted

4. These above limitations apply to outdoor activities only.

B. Equipment may be issued prior to the fourth day of practice.

2. The TAPPS football season shall consist of 11 playing dates.

3. Schools may schedule 10 varsity contests

4. There must be five (5) days between varsity contests. This includes both scrimmages and games.

C. DATES for first scrimmage and first interschool games are shown on the current TAPPS calendar.

D. **SPRING FOOTBALL.**

1. Schools will be allowed a total of fourteen days to conduct contact football drills/practice,

a. including full pads and helmets

b. and **must** be completed before school is out for the summer.

2. No interschool scrimmages are allowed during spring football

3. Participation

a. Students not enrolled and attending the member school may not participate in Spring Football.

E. TEAM SELECTION FOR PLAY-OFFS

1. *Advancement.* See Section 141 Play-Off Format (Football)
2. *Finals.* All 11-man football finals shall be played at site selected and approved by the TAPPS Executive Board. The TAPPS OFFICE will make all arrangements for officials and workers for State Finals games.
3. *Site.* See Play-off Format. Section 141.

F. HALF TIME

1. Football Intermission between halves is determined by Rule 3.2.1.b of the NCAA Football Rules and Interpretations. The intermission shall be 20 minutes.
2. Football Intermission between halves may be changed with the mutual agreement of both schools.
 - a. Change must be approved by both schools prior to the contest
 - b. Change must be in writing
 - c. Change must be communicated to the officiating crew
3. Football Intermission between halves shall be split equally between the two schools unless mutually agreed to by both teams in advance of the contest.
 - a. Change must be approved by both schools prior to the contest
 - b. Change must be in writing

G. PERFORMING GROUPS

1. In order to maintain a proper perspective and to insure equity in competition for the participating teams, the following guidelines must be followed.
2. The guidelines apply to
 - a. Marching Bands
 - b. Drum Lines
 - c. Other live performance groups
 - d. Music played over sound systems
3. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing.
4. During the contest, bands are to play only
 - a. during pregame,
 - b. halftime,
 - c. postgame,
 - d. the time between quarters,
 - e. time-outs (except injury time-outs) and
 - f. between plays (stopping prior to the referee's whistle for "ready for play").
5. Bands seated near the end zone should not play if the line of scrimmage is inside the 10-yard line on the end close to the band.
6. The band may play the school fight song, etc
 - a. After a touchdown,
 - b. field goal,
 - c. extra point, or

- d. safety.
- e. However, the director must be sure to stop playing when the official blows the ready for play whistle to start the next play.
- 7. When bands want to warm-up prior to halftime, directors should arrange this so that it is done in an area that is not a distraction to the contest. Note: No whistles may be used while the game is in progress.
- 8. Because the band acts as a spirit group,
 - a. members should always act in a positive manner and
 - b. must not do anything to distract or negatively affect the opposing team.
 - c. It is the director's responsibility to prevent his/her band from
 - d. playing at inappropriate times,
 - e. playing inappropriate music, or
 - f. taunting the opposing team.

H. MERCY RULE

- 1. In the event the score differential of an 11 MAN FOOTBALL contest reaches 40 or more points, the following provisions are to be implemented.
- 2. First half time keeping will not be affected.
- 3. After half time, once the 40 point differential is reached, the Clock will run continuously except for the following stoppages:
 - a. Time Outs
 - b. Quarter End
 - c. Injury Time Outs
- 4. Once the Continuous Clock has begun, time keeping does not revert back to normal procedures even if the point differential is reduced to below 40 points