



## STJFL PRE-GAME MEETING

Only adults are allowed on sideline with a STJFL certified coach's badge in their immediate possession and prominently displayed.

The referee will give a sideline warning to the Head Coach if anyone on the sideline does not have a volunteer badge. 2nd violation will result in a 15 yard penalty.

**"Head coach is responsible for controlling his sideline including spectators"**.

**Penalty for Violation may include:**

1. Warning and/ or
2. Unsportsmanlike Conduct flag with 15 yard penalty and/ or
3. Ejection of violator from game.

If your team has a question about a referee call, **"ONLY THE HEAD COACH"** may speak with the referee's. **Do not argue with the referee's.** If you don't get an immediate answer, he may get back to you within a few plays or when game clock permits. If you need an immediate answer for a rule or safety violation, you have the right to use one of your timeouts to speak with the referees to get your answer. You may/ may not agree with the answer. Get your answer and move on with the game. If there is a safety or rule violation or any issue with the way the game is being officiated, The Head Coach should bring it to the head official's attention. If the issue is not addressed and/ or corrected, find an STJFL (YELLOW BADGE) official and let them take care of it. **MPR Sheets must be turned in immediately following game to hosting STJFL Official for this field.**

### **Lightning related game stoppages**

In the event of lightning strikes within 08-10 miles of field, an immediate game stoppage shall be called by official timeout. All child participants SHALL immediately move from the playing fields to an area of safety and shall remain in the safe location until a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. If, after one hour, the danger of lightning is still present, then the game **MAY** be cancelled. STJFL will determine if game is rescheduled.

### **Heat**

In the event of extreme heat, the Head Referee and/ or any STJFL League Board Member (Yellow Badge) may call for an official timeout due to the dangers involved with heat related injuries. During the official timeout, the player's may move to the side line for water breaks however coaches are warned that absolutely NO coaching will be permitted during the heat related time out. Violation of coaching during the heat related official time out is Unsportsmanlike Conduct with a penalty of 15 yards assessed to the violating team. STJFL Penalty may also be imposed against violator(s).

### **Mercy Punt Rule**

When the mercy rule is in effect and the team is on their side of the 50 yard line they may declare a punt. If the team under the mercy rule is on the opponent's side of the 50 yard line then the mercy punt shall not be allowed. When a punt is declared the team must punt. The opposing team may not rush or attempt to block the kick. If the ball is dropped the kicker may pick it up and kick it. There is no possibility to run the ball or attempt a fake after the punt is declared. The ball will not be returned and the opposing team will take over where the balls forward momentum carries it. If the opposing team rushes the kicker there will be a 10yard penalty and repeat 4<sup>th</sup> down. If the opposing team rushes and hits the kicker, it will be considered a personal foul, 15 yard penalty and automatic 1<sup>st</sup> down.



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### **Junior/ Senior Tackle Rules**

**25 second play clock**

**4 - 10-minute quarters with 10-minute halftime**

1. **Overtime** – UIL rules (For regular season, modified STJFL rules apply.)
2. **Lineman Only Rule** –Make sure LO stickers are on helmets.
3. **LO's** - Must line up on either side of the center (tackle to tackle) on the line of scrimmage.
4. **Nose guard** must be 1 yd. off the ball if playing head up.

### **Pee Wee Tackle Rules**

**25 second play clock.**

**4 -8-minute quarters with 10 minute halftime.**

1. One coach will be allowed on the field on offense and defense. The coach may call plays or make adjustments until the offensive huddle is broken and then must move to inside the friendly hash marks on their sideline. If the coach exits to the opposing team's sideline there will be 15 yd. penalty.

**Rules 1, 2, 3, and 4 listed in above Junior/ Senior Tackle rules applies in Peewee Division.**

### **Flag Rules**

**45 second play clock**

**2 - 25 minute halves with 10 minute half time. Running clock.**

#### **Coaches:**

Two coaches for each team will be permitted on the field. The offensive coaches must be at least 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage and on the friendly hash. The defensive coaches must be 10 yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage on the friendly hash. Coaches on the field are not permitted to call audibles.

**Mouth Guards: Mouth pieces are mandatory**

#### **De-Flagging:**

- A. When the ball carrier is tackled, the referee will determine if it was incidental contact or a deliberate tackle. If he determines it was a deliberate tackle, he will assess a 15 yard personal foul with automatic 1<sup>st</sup> down from the spot of the foul.
- B. The ball carrier is down when the flag is removed or when his knee touches the ground.
- C. The defensive player cannot hold or push the ball carrier to remove his flag. An accidental touch of the body or shoulder while reaching for the flag shall not be considered a violation; however touching of the head or face shall be considered a violation.
- D. The ball carrier cannot use his hands or arms to protect his flags.
- E. The ball carrier cannot lower his head to drive or run into a defensive player.
- F. Stiff-arming by the ball carrier is illegal.
- G. The ball carrier cannot hurdle to prevent a defensive player from removing his flags.