

Paper Football League Rules 2022

General Rules

1. Tournament consists of teams separated into 8 different Divisions. 2 Conferences, each with 4 Divisions. Each Division will have 6 teams.
2. Each team must consist of at least 4 active players and may have 1 alternate player/coach.
3. Division –
Only the winner of each division will advance to a first-round playoff game. No Wild Card or second place finishers will advance. All teams are guaranteed to play 5 games.
 - a. If teams are tied at the end of the regulation play, the winner of the Division will be determined as follows:
 - i. Head to Head play, followed by
 - ii. Most points scored, followed by
 - iii. Least points allowed.
 - b. In the event the teams are tied after the all the tiebreakers, a coin flip will be used to determine the Divisional winner.
4. Playoff are based on a tournament style seeding format:
 - a. **Fielding 8 different divisions** - (#1 vs #8, #3 vs #6, #2 vs #7, #4 vs #5).
 - b. Seeding is determined by the following:
 - i. Overall wins, followed by
 - ii. Most points scored, followed by
 - iii. Least points allowed.
 - c. In the event the teams are tied after the initial seeding, a coin flip will be used to determine the tied teams seeding.
5. All games are timed by the officials.
 - a. **Regular season games** are three minutes (3:00) timed.
 - b. **Playoff games** are three and a half minutes (3:30) timed.
 - c. The **Championship game** is three minutes and forty-five second (3:45) timed.
 - d. In the event any Regular season game is tied (after time expires), the tie will stand and is recorded as a tie for divisional standing purposes.
 - e. In the event any Playoff game ends in a tie (after time expires), each team will attempt a field goal (from their own goal line). Each team will be given equal attempts. A successful field goal followed by an opponent's failure to convert (or visa-versa) determines the winner in overtime.
 - f. Teams cannot change the rotational order (player sequence) of play during a game. This includes all Regular season and Playoff games.

Playing Rules

1. Flip a coin or paper football to determine who goes first.
2. The football is placed at the 20-yard line (about a fifth of the table) and the player #1 flicks/hits the ball (kickoff) toward the opponent's goal line.
3. If the football does not reach the goal line, the opposing opponent's player #1 flicks/hits the ball back towards the opponent's goal line. Both players remain on the board until a stoppage of play has been determined. Each player on a team takes a turn in succession (player #1 then #2 then #3 then #4 and then back to player #1).
 - a. A change of sequence of a team's rotational order can only be altered at the beginning of a new game and will remain in effect until the end of that game.
 - b. An Alternate player/coach player can be substituted only at the beginning of a game and must remain in play until the end of that game.
4. A touchdown occurs when any part of the paper football overhangs/on the opponent's goal line. An extra point opportunity is subsequently tried from the 50-yard line. After the attempt (regardless of a good or failed kick), the scoring team kicks-off.
5. If a football lands past the goal line and falls off the table's end, or the side of the table in the end zone, or any combination of both, it is the end of that player's turn. The opposing teams is awarded a field goal opportunity (from their own goal line). If the field goal is successful, the scoring team kicks-off. If the attempt fails, the opponent kicks from their own 20-yard line.
6. All games are timed and the high score wins.

Scoring

1. Touchdown – The football must have some part of it on or hanging over the goal line to be counted as a touchdown. A touchdown is worth 6 points.
2. Extra Point – The football is kicked from the 50-yard line and is worth 1 point.
3. Field Goal – The football is kicked from a team's own goal line. Field goals are worth 3 points.

Rulings, Definitions and Penalties

1. Players turn – An individual player's turn is continued until there is a stoppage of play. A stoppage of play occurs when a touchdown is scored, or if a football is flicked/hit off any part of the playing table. If a

football is flicked/hit beyond the edge of the any end zone line, a field goal attempt is awarded.

2. Flick/Hit – Defined as a flick motion of the finger(s) forward or a push from behind the ball. A push from behind cannot exceed two inches from the original placement of the ball. Sliding the paper football, with fingers on top of the ball, is prohibited and is considered intentional interference.
3. Kicking – Defined as follows:
 - a. A player is allowed to place the football on top of the thumb or any finger (thumb or finger must remain on the table at all times) for the kick. The kick is then completed with the other hand.
 - b. A player is allowed to place the football on the playing field, held steady by a finger or thumb. The kick is then completed with the other hand.
4. If there is debate whether a football is on or over the edge line (goal line), a straight edge, such as a ruler, may be slid against the edge line. If the football touches the line, it is ruled a touchdown. An Official will make the final determination.
5. Intentional interference is made when a team's s either moves or touches a stationary or sliding football deliberately as determined by an Official. A touchdown can be awarded if the paper football is within a half-inch of the goal line on the initial contact infraction. For all other intentional interference fouls, the opposing team is awarded the spot where the contact infraction occurred. Intentional interference includes blowing on a football, moving the football with physical contact including sliding the football with fingers on top of the ball, players may not re-position a football for better contact, or knowingly shaking the playing field.
6. Accidental contact is where a player inadvertently touches the football while approaching or leaving the field. All other accidental contact is considered a try and the opponent will kick from that spot. If a football is accidentally knocked backwards as to overhang on the edge (goal line) or in the end zone, it is ruled a touchdown for the opposing team. If a football is accidentally knocked backwards as to go out of the end zone, the opponent is awarded a field goal attempt. An Official will determine all accidental contacts.
7. Delay of Game Penalty - Delay includes deliberately taking more than 10 seconds on a player's turn:
 - a. By not attempting to recover a football, or
 - b. Setup of kicking a field goal, extra points, or
 - c. Slow rotation of changing players after his/her turn.It is the official's discretion to call a delay of game penalty. If invoked, the penalty automatically gives the opposing team a field goal opportunity.