

PLAYING REGULATION 7.0 - FOOTBALL

1. **SAFETY GUIDELINES:** Each HSSAA Member School shall ensure that the current Physical Education Safety Guidelines - Secondary Inter School Module, outlined according to the following critical components: EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR, FACILITIES, SPECIAL RULES / INSTRUCTION and SUPERVISION, be adhered to at all times. Specific details on the Critical Components will be provided at the Pre-Season Coaches Meeting.

2. **AGES:**

All competitors shall meet the age requirements as per [Article VI, Section III](#) of the Constitution

3. **EVENTS:**

There will be competition for Junior and Senior HSSAA Championships in the following Divisions. Each division must have a minimum of 4 teams to run.

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tier-1 Senior | 2. Tier-2 Senior |
| 3. Tier-3 Senior | 4. Tier-1 Junior |
| 5. Tier-2 Junior | |

4. **ELIGIBILITY:** As governed by HSSAA Constitution [Article VI](#).

5. **ENTRIES:** Each HSSAA Member School may enter one team per age category. No limit to the number of players who may dress for any game, as long as every player can be properly and safely equipped while playing.

6. **RULE BOOK:** The current edition of the Canadian Amateur Rule Book for Tackle Football shall be used. The only exceptions shall be:

- When the score reaches a spread of 25 points or greater the game clock shall run if the coach of the losing teams wishes.
- Should the score be tied after regulation time during the regular season, the shoot-out procedure (per Rule 1 Section 3 Article 6) will be played for 1 series.
- 3 downs to gain 10 yards in the junior age group.

7. **OFFICIALS:** To be the highest caliber possible. There will be a minimum of three (3) officials for Junior league and playoff games. There will be four (4) officials for Senior league and playoff games and for playoff games and for the Championship games in both Tiers, there will be six (6) officials. Costs for extra officials to be borne by the competing schools.

8. **UNIFORMS:** Not specified.

9. **STARTING TIME:** To be set by the Athletic Convenor prior to the pre-season coaches meeting.

10. **AWARDS:** For all divisions – Senior/Junior – there will be:

- A) a trophy for the winning team
- B) Medallions for Champion and Finalist. (40 Max)

11. **BOWL REPRESENTATION:** The Halton Senior Tier 1 Champion shall advance to the GHAC play downs as per the GHAC Constitution. Any additional entries into the GHAC play downs will also follow as outlined in the GHAC Constitution. The Halton Junior Tier 1 Champion will represent Halton in the Junior Metro Bowl Playoffs if scheduling permits.

12. **Minimum Requirements to Play:**

- a) In order to participate in **Sr/Jr Tier 1/2** division football a minimum of 24 players must be approved and submitted on the season's eligibility roster 4 days prior to Regular Season Game 1. (or at the Convenor's request)
- b) In order to play in a HSSAA regular season or playoff football game a minimum of 19 players must be dressed and eligible to participate. If the minimum cannot be met the game would be forfeited. A minimum notice, determined by the convenor, must be provided prior to any forfeit.
- c) Any school forfeiting a game during the regular season is not eligible for postseason play.

13. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- A) All games will consist of 12 minute quarters, and a staff member should be assigned the duties of chief timer. NOTE: The referee has the right to take the watch from the chief timer.
- B) All afternoon games will start at 3:30 PM until standard time sets in, then all league games will start at 3:00 PM. In the case of afternoon doubleheaders, the first game shall begin at 2:30 PM with the second game to follow. All playoff games will start at 2:30 PM. Night games will start at 7.00pm. If an earlier or later starting time is required, it must be by mutual consent of both teams and the officials must be given 24 hours notice of change.
- C) The deadline for postponing games is 24 hours prior to the date of the game. The Chief Referee and the Athletics Convenor must be notified in advance.
- D) It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that competent stick and down-box men are available. They should contact the officials before game time for instructions.
- E) The CIS game ball will be used in all competitions and is to be supplied by the home team. No substitution of the game ball will be permitted except at the referee's discretion.
- F) Football Tie breaking Procedure; See [Article XVI, Section III](#)- Application of Sport Specific Tiebreakers
- G) **VIDEO TAPES:** Video taping is permissible at all games and scrimmages.
- H) **HEADSETS:** Coaches may use electronic communication devices at both the Junior and Senior levels. If these devices are employed, the spotter must remain at the same mutually agreed upon location throughout the game.
- I) Any player or coach who is ejected from an HSSAA sponsored game will be automatically prohibited from dressing for and participating in at least the next scheduled HSSAA game.

J) PRE-SEASON and OFF-SEASON PRACTISES:

OFF SEASON

- a) Spring practices will be permitted any time after the Victoria Day Weekend and scheduling will be at the discretion of each individual school. No more than Eight (8)

Spring practices will be permitted. Full Equipment is permitted for these practices following the 3 day progression(helmets and shoulder pads may be worn during these three days) and format must follow the current HDSB Localized Minimum Standards and OPASSE Secondary Interschool Safety Standards, as well as Safe Contact Policies for participation. Commitment to spring teams must be completed prior to any spring football training.

b) Violations of the above conditions will result in the suspension of the coach(es) involved, for the entirety of the upcoming season.

PRE SEASON

a) A team may start practices under coaches' supervision 7 Weekdays prior to the Labour Day Weekend.

b) The first 3 days of practice must follow the current HDSB Localized Minimum Standards and OPASSE Secondary Interschool Safety Standards, as well as incorporate safe contact skill development (helmets and shoulder pads may be worn during these three days), after which full pads can be worn. This training must be repeated for all athletes even if it was completed in the spring.

c) Violations of the above conditions will result in the suspension of the coach(es) involved, for the entirety of the upcoming season.