



2023-2024

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Football

- A. A visible 25/40 second play clock may be used when available at the discretion of the home team. There must be a clock operator and the clock must be available to both teams.
- B. Modification of the football distance penalty in 9-player football. All penalties that require a loss of 15 yards in 11-player football, will be penalized a loss of 10 yards if played on an 80-yard field. All 15-yard penalties on a 100-yard field will be penalized as a loss of 15 yards.
- C. When facilities permit, nine-player football should be played on a 100-yard field. If space does not allow for 100 yards, the game can be played on an 80-yard field. In either case, the width of the field is 40 yards. Distance from sidelines to hash marks is 48 feet, 4 inches.
- D. **Mercy Rule:** When the point differential reaches 35 points or more in the fourth quarter, the clock will go to running time. The clock will be stopped for any time-outs (team or official); and after scoring plays, until the ensuing kickoff. Regular timing rules will be used if the point differential drops back to less than 30 points. **Note:** Rule 3-1-3 remains in effect – this allows the game to be shortened or terminated at any time, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee.
- E. Both 9 and 11 player: If at the end of the fourth period, the teams have identical scores, the tie will be resolved using the “10-yard” overtime procedure as outlined in the NFHS rules book.
- F. For the 2023 season, team boxes shall be marked on each side of the field outside the coaches’ area between the 15-yard lines for use of coaches, substitutes, athletic trainers, etc., affiliated with the team.

August 2023