

13. Football Policies

The purpose of the policy is to address safety and the heat acclimatization period of early season practice, which is considered the first 14 calendar days of football practice for a member school, commencing with the first day a school begins football practice.

During these first 14 calendar days of practice, it is recommended that an appropriate amount of practice time be spent on the basic fundamentals of blocking and tackling to ensure players are equipped to perform proper techniques before competing in a contest.

2019 Season Dates	Day of week IHSA calendar	FB calendar day	Practice Type	Allowed Equipment
8/12/2019	Mon WK 6	1	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Helmet only
8/13/2019	Tues WK 6	2	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Helmet only
8/14/2019	Wed WK 6	3	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Helmet and Shoulder Pads
8/15/2019	Thur WK 6	4	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Helmet and Shoulder Pads
8/16/2019	Fri WK 6	5	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Helmet and Shoulder Pads
8/17/2019	Sat WK 6	6	5 hours of practice limit. No single practice can exceed 3 hours. 3 hours rest between practices.	Full pads
8/18/2019	Sun WK 7	7	No practice allowed – day of rest	
8/19/2019	Mon WK 7	8	5 hours of practice limit. No single practice can exceed 3 hours. 3 hours rest between practices.	Full pads
8/20/2019	Tues WK 7	9	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Full pads
8/21/2019	Wed WK 7	10	5 hours of practice limit. No single practice can exceed 3 hours. 3 hours rest between practices.	Full pads
8/22/2019	Thur WK 7	11	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Full pads
8/23/2019	Fri WK 7	12	5 hours of practice limit. No single practice can exceed 3 hours. 3 hours rest between practices.	Full pads
8/24/2019	Sat WK 7	13	3 hours of practice limit. With a 1 hour walk-through. 3 hours rest between all practices and w-t.	Full pads
8/25/2019	Sun WK 8	14	No practice allowed - day of rest End of Acclimatization Period	

During the first five (5) days of practice for each player, athletes may not participate in more than 3 hours of practice per day (Monday of Week 6 – Friday of Week 7 in the IHSA standardized calendar).

If practice is interrupted for any reason, the practice should recommence once the conditions are deemed safe, but total practice time should not exceed three hours per day during the first 5 days of practice.

A one-hour maximum walk-through is permitted during the first five days of practice; however, a minimum of 3 hour recovery period should be inserted between the practices and walk-through (or vice-versa).

During the first two days of practice, helmets and appropriate footwear should be the only protective equipment permitted. During days three through five, helmets, shoulder pads and appropriate footwear should be the only protective equipment permitted. Beginning on calendar day six (Saturday of Week 6 in the IHSA standardized calendar), all protective equipment may be worn and full contact may begin. Sunday of week 6 and Sunday of week 7 are determined to be rest days and no practice is allowed.

Beginning no earlier than the 6th calendar day and continuing through the 13th day (Saturday of Week 6 through Saturday of Week 7 in the IHSA standardized calendar), 5 hour practice days must be followed by a 3 hour practice day. On 3 hour practice days, one walk-through is permitted, but it must be separated from the practice(s) by at least three hours of continuous rest. When a 5 hour practice day is followed by a rest day, another 5 hour practice day is permitted after the rest day.

On a 5 hour practice day, no single practice duration can exceed three hours total. Warm-up, stretching, cool-down, walk-through, conditioning, and weight room activities are included as part of the practice time.

All practices during the 14-day acclimatization period must be separated by at least three continuous hours of recovery in a cool environment, with no sport- or conditioning-related activity permitted (e.g. speed or agility drills, strength training, conditioning, or walk-through). Treatment with the athletic trainer is permitted as is classroom work and/or video review.

Regardless of the conditioning program and conditioning status leading up to the first formal practice, all students-athletes (including those who arrive after the first day of practice) must follow the 14-day heat-acclimatization plan.

A walk-through is defined as a teaching opportunity with athletes not wearing protective equipment (helmets or shoulder pads). During a walk-through, no running or running activities by team members is allowed and no protective equipment of any kind should be present. A football should not be used during the one hour walk through. The walk-through is not part of the practice period on a three hour practice day, and it can last no more than one (1) hour per day. The walk-through does not include conditioning or weight room activities.

The By-laws also specify that each individual football player must participate in on-the-field practice for at least ninety (90) minutes per day on twelve (12) different days prior to playing in a contest. Please note that a practice on the day of a contest will not be counted toward this requirement.

Beginning Week 8 of the IHSA standardized calendar and through the remainder of the season, full-contact will be allowed in no more than 3 practices per week and full-contact time is limited to no more than 90 minutes per week.

When schools conduct twice-daily practices, only one session per day may include full contact.

School Equipment Use

A member school may loan or rent any school-owned football player equipment only to its students for use in summer camps and may loan or rent football helmets only to its students for use in 7 on 7 passing leagues conducted in compliance with the specifications of IHSA By-law 3.157.

Football Scrimmage Definition

Any action, regardless of whether it would involve 11 on 11, 9 on 8, 4 on 4, etc., which simulates any game play conditions where members of one school would be organized against members of one or more schools would be considered a scrimmage.

Weekly Player Limitations for Football

1. A player shall not play in more than two games in any one week and shall not play in more than one game in a single day. For the purposes of this section, a week is defined as the seven-day period running from Friday through the following Thursday. (It is recommended that if a player does play in two games in a given week, one of those games is only as a one-way player. [i.e., only plays on offense or defense or special teams])
2. Players cannot play in games on consecutive days or be involved in live contact/thud in practice the day before/after playing in a game.
3. One play in a game equals a game played.
An exception to this would be:
 - a. Specialized players (kicker, punter, holder only) can participate in back to back games on the same day.
 - b. A player who enters the game for one play only due to an equipment failure or injury, will not have that play counted against them as a game.

NOTE: If a player plays in a game that is stopped due to weather or other circumstances and completed the next day, the player can participate in the resumed game the following day. This is allowed because the exposure is considered not equivalent to a full game being played the night before.