

# Northwest 9 on 9

## Football and General Rules



### MISSION STATEMENT

Northwest 9 on 9 functions under Northwest Texas Youth Football Association and is a non-profit, amateur, youth athletic association formed for the betterment of the youth of the Association and its member associations for the purpose of football competition and cheerleading activities. The goals of the Association are to allow every child the opportunity to play competitive football and cheerleading; to teach fundamental football skills; to develop good sportsmanship and character within each player; to create an atmosphere of teamwork, dedication, and a healthy, competitive spirit among the players; to encourage athletic participation in future years; and to have fun while learning. The Association's philosophy is "the child's learning experiences first, the outcome of the game second."

### LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES Structure and General League Rules

#### *Age Specifics/Team Size*

1. The Northwest Texas Youth Football Association for 9 on 9 will have age divisions defined as 5U, 6/7U, 8/9U, 10/12U. Players in 12U division must be in 6th grade to be eligible.
2. 1 player that is of higher age level will mean whole team will play higher (Ex a team with (12) 7 year old and (1) 8 year old the whole team will play 8/9U)
3. Age is defined as age on Sept 1 of previous year (ex. Birthday 08/20/2013 would make this participant 7 years old for year 2021 spring league)
4. A player may "play up" to one age division above his applicable age.
5. At any point any team that chooses to play up they will never play down during tournament/league play.
6. Minimum 6 players on the field to participate; full team decides if they want to reduce number of kids on field however, it is an option.
7. Team Size limit – teams must split after 24 players, but teams may choose to split before hitting the 24-player mark.
8. Rosters: Electronic Rosters w/ pictures. The association is responsible for providing a picture of any new players (chest up) copy of birth certificate with the electronic roster. The association is also responsible for providing picture of returning players (chest up), birth certificate for returning players is not required if player played in the fall of same spring season (ensure returning players are on electronic roster).
9. Players may ONLY play on one team in the league. Any violation will result in a forfeit of game player played. Second violation will result in suspension for the next 2 Sundays for violating Head Coach.

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### ***Age Limits***

Age limits on each division are as follows:

- 5U Flag – a player may not be 6 years of age on or before September 1st.
- 6-7U- a player may not be 8 years of age on or before September 1st.
- 8-9U- a player may not be 10 years of age on or before September 1st.
- 10-12U- a player may not be 13 years of age on or before September 1st.

### ***Dates and Scheduling***

1. Member Associations may determine their own registration fees and registration cut off dates if such does not exceed the final cutoff date as determined by the Association and as long as they are submitted to the Association for each Member Association by the established but-off date for 9 on 9 Spring Football.
2. The Association season shall adopt a season calendar each year that sets out: the beginning of the season, the end of the season and the tournament.
3. Such calendar shall be adopted prior to the 9 on 9 Spring Season start, disseminated to the Member Associations; posted on the Association's website; and may be amended and/or changed at the Association's discretion.
4. The Association shall reschedule any game lost, due to act of God and/or too few officials, the week following the scheduled game, if possible, but as determined by the Association. This game shall not affect the Association's allowed weekly team events.
5. Games shall be canceled by the Director on Duty at a game site in conjunction with the Head
6. Game Official/Referee. The Director on Duty of each game facility shall have a lightening monitor or always monitor the spark section of the Weather Bug app while on duty and shall consult with the Head Game Official as needed and as requested. All teams shall proceed to scheduled game facility where a decision to play will be made unless made league wide prior. Games once started and then stopped due to weather or other circumstances will continue later and proceed where stopped. The Head Game Official shall make note of the time remaining in the quarter, the score, who had possession, the ball position on the field and the down and distance to go for first down, the number of remaining timeouts per team, and any ejections from game (coach, player, or fan.) If a game has completed more than half of the 40 minute game and has been stopped due to weather or other circumstance, it will be the discretion of the Director on Duty at a game site in conjunction with Head Game Official to call the game final.

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7. Games must be stopped when lightening is within 8 miles. Thirty minutes must pass from the last strike of lightening within the 8-mile radius before a game may resume. It is at the discretion of the Director on Duty at the game site in conjunction with the Head Game Official/Referee if the game can be restarted or if the game must be rescheduled to another time.

### ***Jerseys/Equipment***

1. A dominant jersey color must be declared by each Member Association on or before the start of the season for consideration and approval by the Association. The purpose of this rule is to ensure jerseys are distinguishable in each and every Association game. The Association designated home team shall wear its designated dominant colored jersey unless approved by the Association and agreed upon by the visiting team. Game jerseys must have visible numbers on the front and back. Only last name and initial shall be allowed on the jerseys, as it appears on the official roster. Advertising may be placed only on the front or sleeves of jerseys.
2. Each team should have a way to use an alternate color if conflicting colors (visitor will wear alternate color)
3. Canvas or leather top athletic shoes. If cleats they must be molded type- no screw in cleats.
4. Colored mouth guards are required by all players to participate.
5. Player must wear shirts tucked in and shirts may not hinder player in removing flag. No shorts with pockets for any ball carrier.
6. Mandatory helmets for all 9 on 9 flag players.

### ***Flags***

7. Flag belts will be ordered by the league and reimbursed by the towns. Flags must be purchased from Dennis at GO Team Sports. They must have the NWTYFA logo on them. More than one set can be ordered per team. Flags must be sonic popper flags. They cannot be the same color as the uniform shorts the player is wearing.
8. Flags are required for all skill players. Any skill players without flag belt or missing flags will be declared down once in possession of ball.
9. Any flags/Belts/Poppers that have been altered from manufacturing or adding any substance will result in a forfeit of the contest

### ***Game Officials/Referee***

1. A Game Official/Referee organization shall be approved by the Association prior to the start of each season, and from time to time, as needed thereafter. If such Game

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Official/Referee organization does not require background checks, all officials must be subject to background checks as used by the Association.

2. The official/referee organization chosen to officiate Association games must have a representative present at any and all coach's clinics and/or training as prescribed by the Association and shall understand the Rules of the Association and abide by and officiated by them at all times.
3. No official/referee shall be on the Association board, a Member Association board, coaching staff of team and cannot be related, by blood or marriage, to any participant of the game officiating.
4. Association shall schedule 2 officials/referees for each 9 on 9 Spring Game.
5. Officials will keep score, game clock and play clock.

### ***Insurance***

See NWTYFA General Football Rules.

### ***Protests***

See NWTYFA General Football Rules

### ***Team Notebooks/Rosters***

1. Team Notebooks shall consist of completed Roster Form and Team Pictures.
2. Rosters will be in the Team Notebook and is required for roster checks at the beginning of each game.
3. The Director on Duty of facility where playing game, at least 15 minutes prior to each game. The DOD will check your books at least 30 minutes prior to the game.
4. All Roster Forms shall be completed by Member Association and turned in by the established date each season and Team Books completed by designated third party neutral representative.
5. No player shall be added to a roster after the established cut-off date unless approved by the Association.

### ***Background Checks of Association Representatives***

1. Background checks shall be conducted by the Association or the Member Association on every person who will be in continuous contact with players in an official capacity

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of the Association or a Member Association, including but not limited to, head and assistant football and cheer coaches, water persons, photographers, directors, and officers.

2. No person convicted of a felony violent crime, a sex crime requiring reporting as a sex offender, and/or a crime against a child shall be allowed to be in continuous contact with players in an official capacity of the Association or a Member Association, including but not limited to, head and assistant football and cheer coaches, water persons, photographers, directors, and officers. Felonies will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
3. No person currently on parole and/or probation and/or convicted within the past two years for any assaultive or alcohol related crime or any crime above a class "C" misdemeanor shall be allowed to be in continuous contact with players in an official capacity of the Association or a Member Association, including but not limited to, head and assistant football and cheer coaches, water persons, photographers, directors, and officers.
4. The Association reserves the right to allow or disallow continuous contact with players in an official capacity of the Association or a Member Association, including but not limited to, head and assistant football and cheer coaches, water persons, photographers, directors, and officers, in its sole discretion.
5. Any minor who is in continuous contact with players in an official capacity of the Association or a Member Association, including but not limited to, head and assistant football and cheer coaches, water persons, photographers, directors, and officers, must be continuously supervised by an Association approved adult.

## **B. Players/Parents**

### ***Player Eligibility***

See NWTYFA General Football Rules.

### **Players/Parents/Coaches Code of Conduct**

See NWTYFA General Football Rules.

### **Coaches**

1. All coaches within the Association shall agree to and accept the background check policy and procedures adopted by the Association, shall agree to a Code of Ethics/Conduct, attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated herein for all purposes, as adopted by the Association and shall agree to abide these Association Rules.

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2. There shall be no communications between coaches, from coaches to players, or to coaches on the field during a game from the stands or elsewhere via electronic devices.
3. Coaches violating any rule(s) of the Association and/or rule(s) of a Member Association and or committing conduct unbecoming an Association representative is subject to discipline from the Association. Discipline for any Member Association representative shall be determined by Association Board after investigation and review of facts and can include suspension or expulsion from the Association as determined by the Association at its full discretion.
4. Ejections of a coach and/or parent of player is to be immediately reported to the Director on Duty of the facility who will report to the Association immediately upon completion of the day's events at the facility. The Association and/or the Member Association, at its discretion, may consider, on a case-by-case basis, further punishment for a first ejection and/or subsequent ejections, including but not limited to, expulsion from the Association activities for an extended period of time, indefinitely or forever. If a person is expelled from a Member Association indefinitely and/or forever, such person may not participate in Association activities for another Member Association.
5. Any coach shall not use alcohol, illegal drugs and/or tobacco while participating in Association activities.

### C. Games/Facilities

#### *Facilities*

- See NWTYFA General Football Rules.

#### *Director on Duty*

See NWTYFA General Football Rules.

#### *Game Balls*

1. The official ball of 5U Flag Football, and Age divisions 6u – 9u shall be the brown Wilson K-2 leather/composite, or the Big Game Ball brand equivalent peewee size; Age divisions 10u – 12u shall use the brown Wilson TDJ leather/composite, or the Big Game Ball brand junior size. Member Associations shall provide their Director on Duty with a sufficient number of such official balls to provide the head official for all games at a game field. Visitor team has option to provide Director on Duty, prior to start of game, with alternate material football. Each team maintains the option and right to choose leather or composite football during offensive possession.

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2. The Director on Duty at a game field shall provide the official game ball(s) to the head official prior to the start of each game. No other game ball shall be used other than a ball(s) provided by the Director on Duty.

### ***Game Clock / Ball placement***

Officials will keep score, game clock and play clock.

The ball will be placed at the 40 yard line at the beginning of each possession. To gain the a first down you must get to the 30 yard line then 15 yard line. Teams will have 3 downs to get ball to the 30, 3 downs to 15. Once made 15 yard line teams have 4 downs to score.

### ***Game Scoring***

#### Offensive Scoring

1. Upon scoring teams will be awarded 6 points. Point after attempts will be one down from the 5 yard line for 1 point and 15 yard line for 2 points.

#### Defensive Scoring

1. INT 3 pts (ball is dead no return needed)
2. Int on a PAT points awarded to what offense attempts
3. Defensive Stand - Turnover on Downs 2 Pts

### ***Offensive Formation***

1. The offense must have no more than 4 players in the backfield
2. Linemen are not eligible receivers
3. Snap must be between the legs
4. Running the ball is allowed by all non-linemen positions
5. QB cannot run through A gap at snap of ball, unless in shotgun

### ***Defensive Formation***

1. Defense is allowed to rush the QB
2. Only allowed to rush 4 players at most. Rushing more than 4 players is Illegal formation 5 yard penalty
3. LB's are allowed to blitz but **must blitz within 1 yard of the line of scrimmage**. Blitzers from more than 1 yard is an illegal formation 5 yard penalty

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### ***Defensive Contact***

Defense is allowed to make minimal contact with WR's within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage with open hand(s).

### ***Blocking***

1. Is allowed with 2 hands only
2. Is allowed down field

### **NO BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST at anytime**

- a. Any violation is an Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- b. Players are only allowed 2 Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls before disqualified for game.

### ***Miscellaneous***

1. Only the head coach or coach on the field may communicate with game officials during a game.
2. 5U, 6U-7u division, may have 2 coaches on the field during the game. The coach must stay ten yards behind the line of scrimmage and remain quiet once the QB starts his cadence or gets under center.
3. 8u – 12U division, may have one coach on the field during the game. The coach must stay ten yards behind the line of scrimmage and remain quiet once the QB starts his cadence or gets under center.
4. If any team arrives at their scheduled facility with 15 or more minutes after the game time, the game shall be considered a forfeit.
5. Players shall not wear any jewelry during games.
6. The gate income for tournament; after field and referee fees, will be sent to NWTYFA to cover costs of tournament, including trophies, rings, and medallions etc. Host town keeps gate in regular season.
  - a. Gate Fees: \$6 Adult, \$4 kids & Senior Citizens

### ***Personal Fouls & Fighting***

1. No player will initiate any contact with their head or to an opponent's head at any time. Any violation will be a personal foul and the ball will be placed at the next first down. If within the (And Goal) yard line the ball will be placed at the 5 yard line with a new set of downs.
2. Players are only allowed 2 personal fouls before disqualified per game.



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3. Fighting from any player/Coach/Parent is an immediate ejection from the game and tournament.

### **Penalties**

All UIL/NCAA rules apply to Northwest 9 on 9 except what's defined below:

#### **Offensive Penalties**

- All penalties other than delay of game by the offense will move the ball back to the previous first down but not to exceed the starting yard line. If the offense is at the starting yard line any penalty will be a loss of down. If loss of down occurs on a 3rd down at the Starting Line the result will be a turnover on downs.
- No Flag Guarding/Stiff Arm. Flags are to be on hips at all times at the start of the play. Any violation will result in moving ball back to previous first down.
- Play Clock will be 45 seconds once the ball is dead. Any delay of game will be a five yard penalty or loss of down.
- Offense will be responsible to retrieve the ball and play clock doesn't stop in retrieval of the ball
- QB run through A gap at snap of ball unless in shotgun- Loss of Down

#### **Defensive penalties**

- Defensive Pass Interference – ball moved to next first down. If foul occurs in end zone ball will be placed at the 5 yard line first and goal

### **Overtime:**

Regular season Overtime Rule:

1. Games can end in a tie.

Tournament Overtime Rule:

2. Coin flip will determine possession by visiting team
3. Each team will have 1 offensive possession from the 10 yard line for 7u & 8u & from the 15 yard line for 9u & up
4. Will have 4 downs to score
5. If a 2<sup>nd</sup> OT is required a 2 pt. conversion is required
6. Continue until there is a winner with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> OT until a winner is declared.

### **Tournament Play:**

Every effort will be made to have tournament versus same age groups, unlike the regular season when 6/7 8/9 10/12 play each other. Example 7U vs 7U only, we must have at least 3 team in that age group. In the cases with less than 3 teams they will play same as they did in regular season 6/7 etc..