

**Official Rules – 2026**

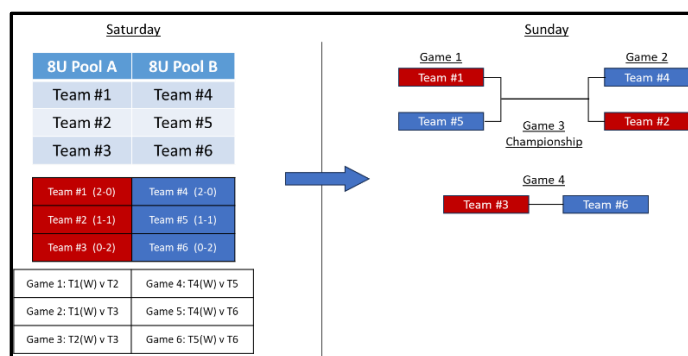


## Rocket City Clash – 2026 Game Rules

The Rocket City Clash youth football tournament is organized by the Alabama Youth Football Association and its partners in the Huntsville/Madison/Decatur area.

### Tournament Pool Play and Playoffs

- The Rocket City Clash is a 3-team pool play tournament, with two pools per age division.
- Tournament age divisions: 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U. **Cutoff birthdate for players is July 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Each team will play 2 games on Saturday against the teams in their respective pools. Pools randomly selected in a drawing at the Friday evening mandatory check-in meeting.
- The top two teams of each pool will qualify for a 4-team playoff, and the two bottom teams from each pool will play each other – all taking place on Sunday.
- Each team is guaranteed three games. Teams reaching the championship will earn a fourth game.



**Tournament Example (per age division)**

### Game Rules

#### Rules for all Age Divisions

- All games will be officiated by AHSAA -certified officials and played under AHSAA rules unless otherwise specified in this document
- No kickoffs or punts – offense starts at their own 35 yd line at start of game and half and after successful scoring. Punts are walked off 30 yds. Punts cannot go past the opposing 20 yd line.
- Gameplay resumes with same possession, down and distance at the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> qtrs.
- Clock – 8-minute quarters, running clock
- Clock is returns to a regulation game clock within the last 2 minutes of the half and game
- Each team has two (2) timeouts per half
- Approved coaches MUST wear field passes visible while on the sideline
- Only coaches, water/equipment assistants, and medical personnel allowed on the sideline



## Rocket City Clash – 2026 Game Rules

### Scoring and Points After Touchdown (PAT)

- All scoring will follow the standard NFHS scoring rules for touchdowns, field goals, and safeties.
- Field goals may be attempted with no defensive rush allowed.
- One (1) point PAT from the 3-yard line
- Two (2) point PAT from the 10 yard-line
- Two (2) point PAT successful kick from the 3-yard line of scrimmage allowed, with no defensive rush

### Blowout Rule

If a team is behind by 20 points, their offense will start at the opposing team's 40 yd line.

### Playoff Scoring Ties

- 1OT – both teams, one play from 3 yard-line, + PAT
- 2OT – both teams, one play from 5 yard-line, +PAT
- 3OT – both teams, one play from 10 yard-line, +PAT
- 4OT – coin toss at midfield

### Rule Exceptions for Specific Age Divisions

#### 8U Rule Exceptions

Since this tournament takes place early in the season, the following exceptions apply:

- One (1) coach may be on the field but must stop all instruction and physical contact with players once the center takes position over the ball, and coaches must then back up 5 yards or more behind the player furthest from the line of scrimmage (ie. behind the safety).
- No nose guard will be allowed over the center. Defensive tackles must line up over the opposing offensive guard, but may engage A-gap or center on snap.
- Linebackers / defensive backs must be 3 yards off the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball. Once the ball is snapped they may engage the offense.
- The defense may not send linebackers / defensive backs up to the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped. Once the ball is snapped, they may engage the offense.
- Offense has 30 seconds to snap the ball for the next play.



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### 9U/10U/11U Rule Exceptions

- Offense has 30 seconds to snap the ball for the next play.

### Age Division Specifics

Age Division	Weight Restriction	Ball Size
<b>8U Division</b>	Offense - 115 lbs. for skilled position Defense - unlimited	Wilson K2 (or equivalent)
<b>9U Division</b>	Unlimited	Wilson K2 (or equivalent)
<b>10U Division</b>	Unlimited	Wilson TDJ (or equivalent)
<b>11U Division</b>	Unlimited	Wilson TDJ (or equivalent)

### Questions on the Rules?

For questions on tournament gameplay rules, please contact ALYFA for further clarifications –

[alyfa@alyfa.org](mailto:alyfa@alyfa.org)

