

Syracuse Sports Association

8 V 8 Youth Flag Football Rules

LEAGUE RULES

- 1) The Primary purpose of this league is to have fun. Fighting and profanity will **NEVER** be tolerated at SSA.
- 2) Please bear in mind our referees are human. Only the head coach can question a call respectfully. Advise your players that any player(s)/coach(es)/spectator(s) can and will be ejected at the discretion of the referees. All ejected player(s)/coach(es)/spectator(s) will have a suspension as the following:

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

- 1ST Offense: One (1) game suspension
- 2nd Offense: Out for the season

- 3) As a team you are responsible for having all of your players in the same colored jerseys that are numbered
- 4) Schedules will be posted online at www.cusesports.com.
- 5) All penalties in the SSA youth league will consist of 10-yard, 7-yard, 3-and yard infractions and/or ejection from the game and/or monetary fines.
- 6) This league shall be governed by the UNITED STATES FLAG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL RULES unless otherwise noted in these rules.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- 1) There shall be eight (8) players on each team and all eight (8) players shall be in the offensive huddle at the start of the game.
- 2) A team must field a minimum of seven (7) players to play the game. Anything less constitutes a forfeit. There shall be a grace period of 5 minutes from the scheduled game time. If a team cannot field seven (7) or more players at the end of the grace period, a forfeit will be awarded.
- 3) Any number of substitutions may be made when the ball is dead.
- 4) All eight (8) team members will be equipped with a tripe flag belt. All will be eligible to receive passes and carry the ball.

DURATION OF GAME

- 1) A game will consist of the following Week 1-Week 3:
 - 20 minutes of practice before game time
 - (2) 15-minute halves
- 2) A game will consist of the following Week 4-end of the season:
 - (2) 20-minute halves
- 3) A team may take a total of one (1) timeout per half (Timeouts **DO** carry over to the 2nd half). Timeouts are 60 seconds.
- 4) There will be a 30-second play clock once the ball is spotted.

SCORING

- 1) A touchdown counts for 6 points. Extra point run, pass, and kick counts for 1pt from 5 yards and 2pts from 8 yards.
- 2) Safety will count for 2 points for the defensive team.
- 3) There will be a 36-point mercy rule. Game will officially end at the time a difference of 36 points occurs. The coaches can then decide to continue the game with a running clock and no score. Coaches, please do your best to not let this happen.
- 4) Field goals are allowed. They will count for 3 points. If a kick hit the boards and goes in the net, the kick will be good.

SCRIMMAGE

- 1) Four (4) downs are given to advance the ball from one zone into the next in order to retain possession of the ball. A team can choose a controlled punt on 4th down, the ball will be placed at the other teams start point. If a team decides to go for it on 4th down anywhere on the field and doesn't make a first (1) down, it will be a turnover on downs at the dead ball spot. To put the ball in play legally, it must be snapped by the center between the legs to a backfield man. The play must start with 3 players on the line of scrimmage.

SHIFT

- 1) If the snap is preceded by a huddle or shift, all offensive players must come to a complete stop and remain stationary in legal position without moment of feet, body, head or arms for at least a full second before the snap of the ball. One player is allowed to motion without moving forward at the snap.

ENCROACHMENT

- 1) After the ball is ready for play and until the snap, no player on defense may encroach, touch the ball, nor may any players contact opponents and/or in any way interfere with them. This includes standing in the neutral zone, defensive signals, shifting through the zone. After the snapper has made fine ball adjustments, it is encroachment for any player to break the scrimmage line plane, except for the snappers' right to be over the ball.

GUARDING THE FLAG BELT

- 1) Runners shall not flag guard by using their hands, arms, or the ball to deny the opportunity for opponents to pull or remove the flag. Flag guarding includes the following:
 - a. Swinging the hands or arms over the flag to prevent an opponent from de-flagging
 - b. Placing the ball in the possession over the flag to prevent an opponent from de-flagging
 - c. Lowering the shoulders in such a manner in which placing the arm over the flag to prevent an opponent from de-flagging

PASSING

- 1) Any member of a team is eligible to pass and/or receive the ball. There can only be one (1) forward pass attempt on each down. Any number of backward or lateral passes may be attempted at any time from any point on the field. There must be no interference with the pass receiver. If a lateral or backwards pass is dropped or fumbled, the ball is dead at the spot it hits the ground,
- 2) A receiver can be hit by a defensive player within 3-yards of the line of scrimmage.
- 3) The center must have time to protect himself(Stan up and face the defender)

- 4) Defensive players must make a definite effort to avoid charging into a passer after it is clear the ball has been thrown. No defensive player shall contact the passer who is standing still or fading back as he is considered out of play pass.
- 5) Any defensive player rushing the passer without contact to the ball (After released by the passer) and makes significant contact with the passer is in violation of roughing the passer.
- 6) Protection from roughing the passer ends if the forward pass is thrown from beyond the offensive teams' line of scrimmage.
- 7) The offensive player shall not be interfered with while attempting to catch a free thrown ball.
- 8) The defensive player has as much right as the offensive player to catch a thrown ball. The defensive player shall not be interfered with while attempting to catch a thrown ball.
- 9) When the receivers are running passing routes, they may not intentionally interfere with the defender such as set a pick.

CARRYING THE BALL

- 1) Any member of a team is eligible to carry the ball. The ball must be handed off behind the line of scrimmage for a legal handoff.
- 2) A ball carrier that has fallen to the ground without being legally stopped may resume the run until they are legally stopped. A player is considered to be legally stopped when anyone of their flags have been pulled from their belt or is touched anywhere with one hand when they are on the ground.
- 3) At no point during the game may the ball carrier pass the ball to themselves to avoid being legally stopped. If they do, the ball will be ruled dead at that point.
- 4) If the ball carrier has lost their flags not due to any legal action of their opponent, they may continue to advance the ball until they are tagged by an opponent. Example:
 - a. A player losses a flag while blocking at the line of scrimmage, play continues and they catch a pass. Since they are missing 1 flag, they only need to be touched anywhere to be considered down.
- 5) The ball carrier may not use their hands, feet, or arms in any way to avoid having their flags pulled. This includes stiff-arming. The ball carrier may never leave their feet to prevent themselves from being de-flagged. This includes diving into the end zone. They may, however, leave their feet to avoid a fallen player only.
- 6) The ball carrier must make every effort to avoid contact with the defender. The defender has the right to maintain their position.

BLOCKING

- 1) A player attempting to block must be on their feet before, during, and after the block. The block must be between the defenders waist and shoulders and to the front side.
- 2) Stiff arming is not allowed
- 3) Blindside blocking and blocking in the back are not allowed
- 4) Downfield blocking is allowed
- 5) Offensive blockers may extend their hands to block but may not grasp or extend their arms past their shoulders in the attempt to block a defender. Open Hand Only.

USE OF HANDS OR ARMS BY THE DEFENSE

- 1) The defensive player may not use hands to grab/hold an opponent
- 2) The defensive player may not tackle or hold the ball carrier
- 3) The defensive player cannot make contact with the opponent above the shoulder

FUMBLES

- 1) Any fumble, the ball is dead at the spot it hits the ground
- 2) On a snap from the center, if the ball is touched by the offensive team before it hits the ground, the ball is dead at that spot otherwise the play is dead and will resume at the previous spot.
- 3) If the snap goes over the head of the person receiving the snap and goes out of the end zone before hitting the ground, a safety shall be awarded to the defensive team.
- 4) IF A FUMBLE IS IN THE AIR BEFORE IT TOUCHES THE GROUND, A DEFENSIVE PLAYER CAN RECOVER IT AND RETURN IT SIMILAR TO AN INTERCEPTION.

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OTHERS

- 1) No player shall commit any of the following non-contact acts during a game:
 - a. Abusive, insulting or profane language
 - b. Any acts of unfair play
 - c. Using disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with the offensive teams' signals or movements
 - d. Intentionally kicking at an opposing player
 - e. Intentionally kicking at the ball
 - f. Intentionally swinging an arm, hand or fist at any opposing player
 - g. Leaving the field between downs to gain an advantage unless replaced or with permission from the referee
- 2) When the ball becomes dead in the possession of a player, they shall not:
 - a. Intentionally kick the ball
 - b. Spike the ball into the ground
 - c. Throw the ball high into the air
 - d. Fail to return the ball to the huddle
- 3) There shall not be any unsportsmanlike conduct by substitutes, coaches or spectators subject to the rules. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Attempting to influence a decision by an official
 - b. Disrespectfully address an official
 - c. Indicating objections to an officials decision
 - d. Holding an unauthorized conference and/or being on the field illegally
 - e. Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures. This is your warning for profanity. The referees can and will eject any player, coach, or spectator using profanity; No warning is necessary.
- 4) There shall be no unfair act:
 - a. A team must play within two (2) minutes after being ordered by the referee
 - b. A play is interfered with by an obviously unfair unsportsmanlike act not specifically covered by the rules
 - c. A team repeatedly commits fouls which can be penalized only by halving the distance to the goal line
- 5) No player shall commit a personal foul during a period of intermission. Any act prohibited there under or any other act of unnecessary roughness is a personal foul.
 - a. No player shall:
 - i. Steal, attempt to steal, and/or bat the ball from a player in possession
 - ii. Trip an opponent
 - iii. Contact an opponent who is grounded

- iv. Make any contact with an opponent who is deemed unnecessary of any nature including but not limited to: using fits, locked hands, elbows, and/or any part of the forearm or head except what is already stated in the rules.
- v. Clip opponent
- vi. Position himself on the shoulders and/or body of a teammate or opponent to gain an advantage

FLAG FOOTBALL RULES FOR SPECIFIC EMPHASIS

- 1) One foot must be in bounds for a legal catch to be called. The lines are out of bounds. END ZONE IS ALL FIELD OF PLAY. Any player touching the back wall or using the wall of the end zone as a springboard will be deemed AS A INELIGIBLE PLAYER. If a player is pushed out of bounds, they must return immediately in bounds or forfeit the right to return in bounds. If the player does not return immediately, that player will be deemed as going out of bounds and then returning into play. If a player jumps into the air and is pushed into the back wall and the referee judges that the receiver would have stayed in the field of play if not pushed out, that receiver will be given the reception and awarded a touchdown
- 2) Officials will keep a time clock on the field. The clock will only stop for time-outs and/or any serious injury
- 3) The spot is the ball not the feet
- 4) IF the defensive player attempts to go after the ball and hits the quarterback, roughing the passer penalty will be called.
- 5) If a team takes too much time to put the ball into play in the last two (2) minutes of the game, a 3-yard penalty will be called
- 6) When the whistle blows, the play is dead
- 7) No jewelry
- 8) The referees will be protecting the quarterback at all times along with players near the boards
- 9) Each player on the field MUST wear a flag belt- NO EXCEPTIONS
- 10) Fighting, serious abusive language, and intentional flagrant fouls will result in a 7-yard penalty and will result in a suspension deemed by the league owner
- 11) At no time may a player leave their feet and become completely horizontal to the ground in an attempt to de-flag an opponent
- 12) Pushing an opponent into the boards with no attempt at the flags shall be prohibited
 - a. **Penalty: 7-yards from the end of the play and an automatic ejection (no warning required) and will be suspended from the next game**
- 13) Flag guarding and/or any offensive penalty committed in the end zone will result in a safety awarded to the defensive team
- 14) A safety will cause a change of possession and the ball will be placed to the offensive teams' Start Line
- 15) Teams must remain in their respective team boxes. Players on the sidelines are considered as part of field of play, therefore, all rules apply to bench players that apply to field players.
- 16) Trash cans are provided for spitting and garbage beside the team benches. Please be respectful to the facility and throw away your garbage.
- 17) Fighting by both teams will result in an automatic loss for both teams. (The owner of the league along with the referees will determine based on what was seen if both teams were involved and will deliver consequences as they deem fit)
- 18) Any player who comes off the bench while a fight, pushing contest, or a large commotion is in progress, even if intentions are to help break up the commotion, will be ejected from the game and will receive an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

19) In the event of multiple incidents, the suspension will become indefinite and/or may carry over into the following session/season

PENALTIES

- 1) All penalties shall be the distances stated throughout these rules or half the distance to the goal line, whichever is applicable.
- 2) All decisions made by the referee will be final. There will be no protests allowed on judgement calls. The official has the authority to eject any player from the game and will stop the game, if in his opinion, it becomes too rough. In the case of a terminated game, both teams will be given a forfeit loss.
- 3) No touchdown shall be scored on a penalty. Except as noted by rule.
- 4) If a penalty is committed after the touchdown is scored or the defensive team commits a penalty during the PAT (and the offensive team converts their PAT), the penalty will be assessed on the "Kick-off".
- 5) The opposing team will have an option on all penalties whether to accept the penalty or the down.

3 Yard Penalties (Dead Ball)

Dead Ball Penalties: A "dead ball" is a ball not in play. When a player in possession of the ball gets one of his flags pulled (or down by touch if they are missing a flag) the ball immediately becomes DEAD. Any penalty that is called or assessed after the whistle has been blown to declare the play dead or before a ball becomes "live" from a legal snap or free kick is a dead ball.

Delay of Game - When the ball is spotted and has been placed for a down the 30 second clock shall begin. Referee will warn offensive team when there is "10 to snap" (10 seconds left on play clock).

Failure to snap or free kick within 30 seconds results in a delay of game penalty. *3-yard dead ball penalty.*

False Start - After the ball is spotted and before the snap begins, no false start shall be made by any offensive player. Any act that is clearly intended to cause the defense to encroach will also be considered a false start. (Note- if a false start causes the defense to encroach, only the false start is penalized). *3-yard dead ball penalty.*

Snap Infraction - After touching the ball, the snapper shall not: make any movement that simulates a snap, fail to clearly pause before the snap, lift or move the ball other than in a legal snap. *3-yard dead ball penalty.*

Contact Encroachment (Defense) / Offsides (Offense) - The snapper may be over the ball, but their feet must be behind the neutral zone and no part of their body (other than hands(s) on the ball) may be beyond the foremost point of the ball. No player, other than the snapper, shall encroach on the neutral zone after the ball has been placed down and ready to play. Offsides occurs when an offensive player is lined up in the neutral zone when the ball is snapped (FYI- this penalty is seldom called because players should be communicating with referees to see if they are lined up in the neutral zone). Following the spot of the ball and after the snapper has placed hand(s) on the ball, contact encroachment (defensive penalty) occurs if any defensive player crosses the neutral zone and makes contact with an offensive player before the ball is snapped. *3-yard dead ball penalty.*

3 Yard Loss of Down Penalties (Live Ball)

LOSS OF DOWN means down will NOT be replayed (team loses opportunity to re-try the down)

Illegal Handing Ball Forward - No player may hand the ball forward to a teammate unless both players are in or behind the neutral zone. *3-yard live ball penalty & loss of down.*

Illegal Forward Pass - Is a forward pass from beyond the neutral zone or a second and subsequent forward pass(es) thrown during a down. *3-yard live ball penalty & loss of down.*

Intentional Grounding - A pass that is intentionally thrown into an area behind the line of scrimmage that is not occupied by an offensive player. A pass that is intentionally thrown incomplete to save loss of yardage are typical scenarios for intentional grounding. (Note- As long as the ball is thrown past the line of scrimmage or if an offensive player is in the area behind the LOS where the ball was thrown incomplete, intentional grounding will NOT be called). *3-yard live ball penalty & loss of down.*

Flag Guarding/Stiff Arm - The ball carrier shall not flag guard by using their hands, arms, or the ball to deny the opportunity for an opponent to pull or remove a flag. All flags must be accessible. Stiff arm and flag guards can be incidental and are up to the referee's judgment. *7 yard live ball penalty & loss of down.*

Pass Interference (Offensive) - Blocking downfield before the ball has been touched (commonly seen through "pick plays"). Shoving or pushing off, and creating separation (most common type of OPI). Driving through a defender who had established position. *7 yard live ball penalty & loss of down.*

3 Yard Penalties (Live Ball)

No Contact Encroachment (Defense) - Defensive player is lined up in the neutral zone when the ball is snapped. *3-yard live ball penalty*

Illegal Substitution/Participation - Anytime there are more than 7 players on the field for a team during a live play, illegal substitution will be called. If a player intentionally goes out of bounds during the down and; return to the field, intentionally touch the ball, influence the play, or otherwise participate, Illegal participation will be called. (Note- if a player is blocked out of bounds by an opponent and returns to the field during the down, they shall return at the first opportunity. This is not considered illegal participation) *3-yard live ball penalty*

Illegal Formation - At the snap, at least 3 offensive players must be on the line of scrimmage. *3-yard live ball penalty*

Illegal Shift/Motion - Multiple players in motion at one time (Once offensive players are set only 1 player is allowed to go into motion legally). Forward motion (Player running towards the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball). *3-yard live ball penalty*

Intentional Stripping of Ball Carrier - Will be called once possession of the ball has been retained by a player. At this time if a defender makes an intentional attempt to strip the ball a penalty will be assessed. (If a ball is being received and has not yet been retained as a possession; both offensive and defensive players have an equal right to the ball and to contest the catch.) *3-yard live ball penalty*

Incidental Holding (Defense) - When a defender holds the ball carrier in any way to impede the ball carriers progress and pulling their flag. Incidental holding can occur when a defender is attempting to pull a flag and the flag is NOT pulled. If the defender prevents the runner from advancing or uses his grip for leverage to get the flag, incidental holding will be called. You cannot hold someone's jersey, shorts, or body part to help you get to the flag. Incidental holding will not be called when there is "instance release" from a defender attempting to pull a flag and no advantage is gained. (Note- Offensive player's shirt must be tucked in and nothing can be hanging over or in the way of the flag belt). **7-yard live ball penalty**

Illegal Hurdle/Dive (Ball Carrier) - Ball carrier CANNOT dive/leap/hurdle to advance the ball. "Hurdling" is the runner jumping so that both feet leave the ground at the same time. The runner may not hurdle to avoid being de-flagged. The runner may step over an opponent who is lying prone. "Diving" is the runner jumping such that both feet leave the ground at the same time and runner does not land on his feet. The runner may not dive to avoid being de-flagged. (Note- diving to catch or de-flag is legal provided normal contact rules apply, i.e. diving into a player to de-flag the player is a personal foul). **3-yard live ball penalty**

Illegal Contact - It is illegal contact when any player who is beyond the neutral zone intentionally obstructs an opponent's opportunity to move freely about the field on a pass play. For the offense, the restriction begins when the ball is snapped. For the defense, the restriction begins after 3 yards and before the ball is in the air. Examples of illegal contact for the offense: pushing off to create space, picks made through crossing routes. Defensive examples: contact made before the ball is in the air and after the ball has been snapped. (Note- defense is allowed to jam/press receivers within the first 3 yards from line of scrimmage, if this occurs the receiver is allowed to contact the defense and "fight off" the contact initiated by the defender) **7-yard live ball penalty**

Early Flag Pull (Defense) - The defense is not allowed to pull the ball carriers flag prior to having possession of the ball. **3-yard live ball penalty**

Illegal Rush Move (Defensive line) - Defensive linemen are prohibited from using any rush move that involves their arms or hands going above their own shoulders (Note- this rule is to help prevent any contact made to opponent's head). **3-yard live ball penalty**

Illegal Alignment (Defensive line) - Defensive linemen are prohibited from lining head up on the center. The D-line must be on either side of the center prior to the snap. **3-yard live ball penalty**

7 Yard Penalties (Live Ball)

Illegal Blocking Technique/Illegal use of hands or arms - Any technique where the blocker is not using open hands. Any block that is made outside of the safe blocking area (between the shoulders, above the waist, and in front of the opponent). Grasping or encircling any teammate to form interlocked blocking. *7-yard live ball penalty*

Holding - Use of hand or arms to hook, lock, clamp, grasp, encircle or hold in an effect to restrain an opponent. *7-yard live ball penalty*

Illegal Block in the Back - Use of hands, arms, or body, to contact an opponent in the back. *7-yard live ball penalty*

Bull Rush - When contact is initiated by the ball carrier or defender by lowering their shoulder(s) or intentionally creating contact to be used as an advantage to gain yards (offense) or impede the runner (defense). Ball carriers cannot go through defenders to gain yards and defenders cannot intentionally engage the ball carrier to slow down their forward progress. *7-yard live ball penalty*

Roughing the Passer - Defensive players must make a definite effort to avoid charging into a passer, who has or is attempting to throw the ball from in or behind the neutral zone. (Note- If a defensive player blocks a pass and initiates contact with the passer, roughing may not be called depending on the severity of the contact). *7-yard live ball penalty and automatic 1st down*

Pass Interference *7-yard live ball penalty and automatic 1st down*

There are 3 categories of Offensive Pass Interference:

Blocking downfield before the ball has been touched (commonly seen through "pick plays").

Shoving or pushing off, and creating separation (most common type of OPI)

Driving through a defender who had established position.

Other notes on pass interference:

Defensive pass interference is a 7-yard penalty AND an automatic 1st down.

Offensive pass interference is a 3-yard penalty AND a loss of down.

Face guarding is allowed by the defender as long as no contact is made

Pass interference will not be called if a pass is considered uncatchable

Unsportsmanlike Conduct 10-yard penalty (can be both live & dead ball fouls)

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (By Players) - No player shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Examples are, but not limited to:

Baiting or taunting acts or words. Any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean another player will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Using profanity towards an opponent, insulting or vulgar language or gestures.

Using disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with the offenses signals or movements.

Kicking at the ball, other than during a legal free kick.

Refusing to comply with a game official's request

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (By Non-players) - No coach, substitute, or fan shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Examples are, but not limited to:

Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures.

Attempting to influence a decision by a game official.

Disrespectfully addressing a game official.

Indicating objections to a game official's decision

Being on the field except as a substitute or replaced player.

Not ready to start at scheduled game time.

Personal Foul / Unnecessary Roughness 10-yard penalty (can be both live & dead ball fouls)

Any contact that is excessive or flagrant.

Any contact made to opponent's neck/head.

Any block below the waist (i.e. clipping, chop block, tripping)

Charging into an opponent obviously out of the play

Unfair Acts *The referee enforces any penalty he considers equitable, including the award of a score*

A player or non-player or person(s) not subject to the rules shall not hinder play by an unfair act, which has no specific rule coverage

No team shall repeatedly commit fouls which halve the distance to the goal line

No player shall hide the ball under a jersey

Neither team shall commit any act which, in the opinion of the referee, tends to make a travesty of the game.

Clear Path to End Zone: If a defensive player holds up/ tackles/ intentionally obstructs ball carrier from a clear path to end zone or down field without making an attempt to pull the flag, the offensive team will be awarded 7 yards and an automatic 1st down from the spot. This assessment can also result in a TD. (Clear path to end zone assessment made by game official's professional judgment)

Disqualification *10-yard penalty and player or non-player must leave the facility*

Fighting by player or non-player

Intentionally contacting a game official

Striking, kicking, kneeling

Any act if unduly rough or flagrant

A second unsportsmanlike foul by player or non-player

FOULS BY BOTH TEAMS

If offsetting fouls occur during a down, that down will be repeated. Exception: If each team fouls during a down in which there is a change of possession, the team last gaining possession may retain the ball, provided its foul was not prior to the final change of possession and it declined the penalty of its opponents foul. When a live ball foul is followed by a dead ball foul by the opponent, the penalties are administered separately and in the order of occurrence.

FOUL BETWEEN DOWNS

The penalty for a foul between downs is enforced from the succeeding spot. Any foul following a penalty incurred after a series ends and before the next series begins will be first down, but the zone line-to-gain will be established after the penalty is enforced.

PENALTY TABLE AND ASSESSMENTS

Loss of Down Penalties:

Note* **LOSS OF DOWN** means down will NOT be replayed (team loses opportunity to re-try the down). Loss of down penalties are live ball penalties.

Loss of Down Penalties	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Illegal Handoff	3	Spot of Foul	Yes
Illegal Forward Pass	3	Spot of Foul	Yes
Intentional grounding	3	Spot of Foul	Yes
Flag Guarding	3	Spot of Foul	Yes
Stiff Arm	3	Spot of Foul	Yes
Pass Interference (Offense)	3	Previous Spot	Yes

Penalties that result in an Automatic 1st Down:

Automatic 1 st Down Penalties	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Roughing the Passer	7	Previous Spot	Automatic 1 st
Pass Interference (Defense)	7	Previous Spot	Automatic 1 st
Clear Path	7	Spot	Automatic 1 st

Dead Ball Penalties: A "dead ball" is a ball not in play. When a player in possession of the ball gets one of his flags pulled (or down by touch if they are missing a flag) the ball immediately becomes DEAD. Any penalty that is called or assessed after the whistle has been blown to declare the play dead or before a ball becomes "live" from a legal snap or free kick is a dead ball.

Dead Ball Penalties 3 Yards	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Delay of Game	3	Previous Spot	No
False Start	3	Previous Spot	No
Snap Infraction	3	Previous Spot	No
Contact Encroachment (Defense) / Offsides	3	Previous Spot	No
Dead Ball Penalties 10 Yards	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Personal Foul (after the play is dead)	10	End of Play / Succeeding Spot	No
Personal Foul (before ball is snapped)	10	Previous Spot	No
Unsportsmanlike Conduct by player or Non Player (before ball is snapped)	10	Previous Spot	No
Unsportsmanlike Conduct by player or Non Player (after the play is dead)	10	End of Play / Succeeding Spot	No

Live Ball Penalties: A “live ball” is a ball in play. A ball becomes live when the ball has been legally snapped or free kicked and a down is in progress.

Live Ball Penalties 3 Yards	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Illegal substitution/participation	3	Previous Spot	No
Illegal formation (less than 3 players on line of scrimmage- Offensive penalty)	3	Previous Spot	No
Illegal Shift or Illegal Motion	3	Previous Spot	No
No Contact Encroachment (Defense)	3	Previous Spot	No
Intentional Stripping of Ball Carrier	3	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Incidental Holding (Defense)	3	End of Run	No
Illegal hurdle/dive by ball carrier	3	Spot of foul	No
Illegal Contact	3	Previous Spot	No
Early flag pull	3	End of Run	No
Illegal Defensive Rush Move	3	Previous Spot	No
Illegal alignment (defensive lineman head up against center)	3	Previous Spot	No
Live Ball Penalties 7 Yards	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Illegal blocking technique / Illegal use of hands or arms	7	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Holding	7	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Illegal block in the back	7	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Bull Rush	7	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Live Ball Penalties 10 Yards	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Unsportsmanlike Conduct by player or Non Player (During live ball)	10	Succeeding Spot	No
Personal Foul / Unnecessary roughness.	10	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Blocks below the waist, Clipping, Chop Blocks	10	End of the run or spot of the foul. Whichever penalizes the offender worse	No
Unfair acts	10 / referees discretion	End of the Run	No

Disqualification Associated With Certain 10-Yard Penalties. (These penalties can be live or dead ball penalties, depending on when they occur)

10 yard DQ Penalties	Yardage	Where is the Penalty Assessed?	Loss of Down?
Fighting by player / non player	10	End of Run / Succeeding Spot	No
Intentionally Contacting a game official	10	End of run or succeeding spot	No
Striking, kicking, kneeling	10	End of Run	No
Any act if unduly rough or flagrant	10	End of Run	No
A second unsportsmanlike foul by player / non player	10	End of Run / Succeeding Spot	No
A second personal foul / unnecessary roughness by player	10	End of Run	No

Syracuse Sports Association Zero Tolerance For Poor Sportsmanship

The Syracuse Sports Association was started in the hopes of developing a social organization that at its core has a fundamental belief in sportsmanship, fair play and community building. It is the belief of the SSA that all three of these important elements begin with individual members and extend to entire teams. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of every player, fan and supporter of the SSA to ensure that they do their individual part to promote the core beliefs of the SSA. While the appropriate level of competitive play is expected in the appropriate leagues, it shall be understood that at no time should the Spirit of the game or any player, fan or supporter be made to suffer at its expense. Everyone is charged with the responsibility of developing a bond of mutual respect among all players, adhering to agreed-upon rules of play/conduct, promoting the SSA, and fostering a love for recreational sports. Actions such as taunting in an extreme manner, name-calling, excessive profanity, dangerous aggression, intentional fouling, or other 'win at all costs' behavior are hereby strictly forbidden and are considered contrary to both the Spirit of the game and to the Mission of the SSA and must be avoided by all players.

Failure to do so will have severe consequences.

The Syracuse Sports Association has instituted a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for poor sportsmanship, extremely aggressive behavior, trash-talking that does not fit within the SSA code of conduct and any behavior that is "contrary to the Spirit of the Game." Furthermore, excessive profanity, especially stemming from disagreements or during taunting will not be permitted and will be considered an example of poor sportsmanship and will be subject to penalties.

ENTIRE TEAMS WILL BE PENALIZED FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

Teams are expected to police the behavior of their members for the entire duration of the season at hand regardless of whether or not they are currently playing. Any extreme behavior occurring in the stands, after games or at any later date anywhere SSA members are assembled will be subject to the same penalties. Understand that if any member of a team or person known to be associated directly with that team is ejected from the game or park for any violation or if a person is a constant source of controversy, **THE ENTIRE TEAM MAY BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY.** Captains/Coaches are expected to be the first line of prevention and are expected to police their members. If you cannot control a person on or off the field, you are expected to remove them from the SSA for the benefit of your team, fellow players and for the good of the league. If not, your entire team will suffer penalties. No exceptions.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS IS EVERYONES WARNING

SSA Directors will investigate all infractions fairly and aggressively and everyone is reminded of the following fact: as commissioners of this league, we will have the final say on all matters. We also reserve the right to consult with anyone we see fit. If warranted, any of the following penalties may be additionally imposed for unsportsmanlike conduct or any behavior that is contrary to the Spirit of SSA Leagues:

- (a) The offending individual may be banned from all future SSA events and will not be allowed in SSA facilities.
- (b) The offending player's team may be further penalized with a 1 week suspension meaning any games scheduled for the following week will be forfeited and the team and its members will not be permitted in SSA facilities for that week.

- (c) The offending team may be dropped from the remainder of the schedule or season. **No refunds** will ever be issued.
- (d) The offending team and any players associated with that team may not again be allowed to participate in the SSA, penalties are not limited to only those listed.

