

The General Season Information

COVID-19

See ***Guidance for ACEL Sanctioned Contests During COVID-19*** available on the members' section of the website for ACEL COVID guidelines for all ACEL events.

- It is expected that games will be cancelled due to illness this season. Therefore, there will be no penalty for games that cannot be completed by the end of the season due to COVID-19. Prompt communication is required! Teams that fail to show for games without communicating with their opponent in a reasonable amount of time WILL be fined \$500 and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
- Teams must submit a COVID-19 plan for their organization to be posted on the members' section of the webpage. The purpose of the plan is to help visiting teams understand what COVID-19 policies/procedures are expected in your home facility **before** game day.

Officials

Many have expressed concern over the ability to secure officials. LHSOA officials are private contractors. LHSAA cannot dictate when or for whom officials works; therefore, officials should be available even if LHSAA has no sanctioned season concurrent with the ACEL.

ACEL 8-Man Football Quarter length

All sanctioned ACEL 8-man football quarters will be 8 minutes in length for 2020-2021.

Thursday Game Nights

Thursday will continue to be the scheduled game night for 8-man football due to the difficulty of securing both facilities and officials on Friday nights for many of our teams. However, as discussed in last year's post-season coaches' meeting, more of our ACEL organizations may have increasing opportunity for Friday night games, and it is particularly beneficial for football teams to compete on non-school nights. With the current reduced competition from LHSAA for officials, there may be even more opportunity to move games to Friday nights. Please remember that the ACEL allows organizations to easily change their schedules as necessary. All that is required is for both the home and away teams to submit a schedule change form through the website. Saturday games may also be advantageous to some of our organizations.

All-State Voting Changes

All organizations participating in each sport are required to attend All-State voting this year. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend.

The Schedule

All teams play each other once and two of the six teams twice. Minimizing the overlap with basketball, while at the same providing as close to a normal game schedule (7-8 games in the ACEL) as possible, were the controlling factors in determining the length of the 8-man football season.

Playoffs

Playoffs are open to all teams that wish to participate. The exact playoff bracket will be dependent on the number of teams participating. Playoff brackets will be seeded according to power point rankings with the higher seed hosting.

State Championship

The state championship is scheduled for November 14. Beginning this year, state championships will be run by the ACEL. More information on the 8-Man football state championship will be provided shortly.

Supplemental rules/ procedures/policies

AED

The ACEL strongly recommends that all organizations have an AED at all ACEL events.

Football Quarter

8 minutes

Game Day Roster

- Only 20 athletes may dress out for each game
- Official Game Day Roster forms are located on the Football page of the website
- Rosters MUST be filled out for every game with both coaches' signatures
- Forms should be kept on file with the coach and available to be submitted upon league request

Medical Protocol

- Home team should contact local ambulance service to be at all home football games
- Plan of Action – discuss with athletic director/administrator

MaxPreps

Please upload stats to MaxPreps routinely throughout the season. Waiting until the end of the season makes it difficult for our other teams to link to your schedule and for stat reporting to be transparent.

Communicate with your Executive Director

Most problems and misunderstandings can be avoided simply through communication. Coaches, if you have a league concern please discuss it with your athletic director ASAP. In many instances athletic directors will have already received related information from the ACEL. Athletic directors, please do not hesitate to contact me with any league issue you may have. The more you all communicate with me, the better I understand what is actually happening within our league, making me better able to act in the best interest of all our organizations. I cannot address what I do not know.

Sandra Merrow

ACEL Executive Director

admin@theacel.com

337-366-1394 (Leave a message, and I will get back to you.)