

ACEL 8-Man Football Plan 2021-2022



Revised 4.11.21

The General Season Information

The 8-Man Football Schedule

The 8-man football season has been extended to 10 weeks this year by way of overlapping the football and volleyball state championships. One week is set aside for playoffs and one week for the state championship. Each of the 7 teams will play each other once and 1-2 teams twice. Because there is an odd number of teams, each team will have at least one bye week in their schedule plus there is a league wide bye week provided for recovery and make-up games.

The ACEL understands that football coaches prefer a 10-game season. Unfortunately, the time constraints that we must adhere to simply do not allow enough time for that many games. Beginning ACEL seasons before the first full week of August or extending seasons into May is simply not possible for many of our organizations. Also, overlapping our fall, winter, and/or spring sports often makes fielding teams difficult for many ACEL members.

Playoffs

The top 4 teams in regular season power points will advance to playoffs. Playoffs will take place the week of October 21, 2021.

State Championship

The ACEL 8-Man State Championship is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, October 30 in Alexandria.

Reminders

Read the ACEL Standing Rules

Please make sure to read the ACEL Standing Rules available for download on the website. If any particular situation is not covered in the ACEL Standing Rules, the current NFHS rules apply. (ACEL Rule 1.5) If you have any questions about ACEL rules or operating procedures, please ask your athletic director for clarification. Be aware that ACEL rules and procedures are tailored to the unique needs of our member organizations. Therefore, some ACEL rules are unlike those customarily found in other leagues.

Administrator Required at Each Game

An administrator or a designated representative for each team must be in attendance at all ACEL events. The administrator may NOT be the team's coach nor may they sit on the bench. The purpose of the administrator is to handle issues that may arise with the fans, players, or coaches of their organization. The administrator must locate and introduce themselves to the administrator of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the game. Administrators for each team will work together to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority. (ACEL Rule 13)

MaxPreps

The use of MaxPreps to report player stats for all-state consideration in the ACEL is mandatory. No all-state nomination will be accepted without an accompanying MaxPreps stat report.

Please do not underestimate the time that it can take MaxPreps to approve new organizations or to fix problems within existing accounts. ***If you are new to MaxPreps or are having issues with your MaxPreps account, NOW is the time to get those fixed.***

In order for MaxPreps to work for us as it is intended, player stats must be uploaded for each ACEL game in which an all-state nominated player participates. Stats should be uploaded 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.

8-Man Football Coaches' Meeting

There will be a meeting for all ACEL coaches immediately following the membership meeting on August 7 in Alexandria. Sport specific discussions will follow the general coaches' meeting. Attendance at the coaches' meeting is not required but is highly encouraged. An agenda plus the time and location for the coaches' meeting will be published later this summer.

All-State Voting

All organizations participating in football are required to attend All-State Voting even if no player is nominated for all-state from the organization. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend. The 8-Man Football All-State Voting meeting will be via Zoom, Saturday, October 23rd.

AED

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

8-Man Football Rules, Procedures & Policies

The ACEL follows the rules and regulations set by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) for all sanctioned ACEL sports. ACEL supplemental policies and exceptions to NFHS rules are listed below.

ACEL Specific Rules and Policies for 8-Man Football 2021-2022

Schedule Changes

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.

Score Reporting

Scores must be reported by both the home and away teams by noon the following day. Failure to report the score will result in a fine. (See ACEL Rule 6.1)

ACEL 8-Man Football Quarter Length

All sanctioned ACEL 8-man football quarters will be 10 minutes in length for 2021-2022. (ACEL Rule 18.6.1)

Running Clock

ACEL Rule 19.7.3.2.1. Running clock will be applied when there is a 30 points differential at the start of the 3rd Quarter. This will be applied regardless of agreement by the coaches.

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
- All ACEL coaches are required to take a concussion course and be able to provide evidence/certificate of completion upon request.

ACEL Standing Rules Changes/Amendments for 2021-2022

The final draft of the 2021-2022 ACEL Standing Rules will be available for download following the membership meeting on August 7.

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 already have 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.)

