

2023-2024 ACEL 8-Man Football Plan & Schedule



Revised 5.08.23

The General Season Information

2023-24 8-Man Football Teams

Acadiana Christian School Lions—New Iberia
First Baptist Christian School Eagles—Lafayette
John Paul the Great Academy Guardians—Lafayette
Mt. Olive Christian School Eagles—Athens
***Northshore Vultures—New Orleans**
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights—Lake Charles

*First year ACEL probationary member not eligible for post-season participaton.

2023-24 Schedule

The 8-man football season is 10 weeks and will begin August 7, 2023 and end on October 13th. One week is set aside for playoffs and one week for the state championship. Each of the 6 teams will play each other once and most teams twice as the season length allows. There is a league wide bye-week provided for recovery and make-up games.

Playoffs

The top 4 teams in regular season power points will advance to playoffs. Playoffs will take place the week of October 16th. Exact dates may be negotiated by participating teams. In the event teams can not agree, playoff games will take place on Thursday, October 19, 2023.

State Championship

The ACEL 8-Man State Championship is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, October 28 in Pineville.

Extra Games

Mississippi Sports Assoc. Phoenix

The Mississippi Sports Association (the Phoenix) is a homeschool organization located in Jackson, MS that is contemplating membership in the ACEL for 2024-25. For this year, they would like to pick up a few games with ACEL members. Contact Coach Darby at mpsa.phoenix@outlook.com for more information.

Reminders

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.

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.

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 21st.

Update Coach Information

Please make sure the contact information for your coach and your field location is up-to-date on the Members' section of the ACEL website. Use the Information Update Form located on the Forms & Downloads section of the website to update information for your organization.

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

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 9.7)

ACEL 8-Man Football Quarter Length

All sanctioned ACEL 8-man football quarters will be 10 minutes in length. (ACEL Rule 10.5.1)

Running Clock

ACEL Rule 5.7.2.2. 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 24 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 upon league request

Medical Protocol

- Home team should contact a 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 8-Man Football 2023-24

- Amendment to ACEL Rule 11.2.1 to allow athletes to be voted onto the All-State Team in up to one offensive and one defensive position.
- 10.5.2 added: Football chain-crew shall be a 3-person crew supplied by the host team in which each member of the chain crew is at least 18 years of age.
- 10.5.3 added: A football officiating crew shall consist of no less than 4 field and 1 box official.
- 4.15 changed requiring co-oping teams declare by the commitment deadline for football
- 4.17 added: Co-oping teams must submit a plan for exiting the co-op and establishing two independent teams within 3 consecutive years of the formation of the co-op.
- 3.10 added: Current ACEL Member Organizations or ACEL Commissioners that recruit new members to the ACEL, resulting in a submitted application, approval for membership by the ACEL Executive Board, and all required fees paid by the new Member, will receive the first-year membership fee (\$300) paid by the new organization.

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.)



2023-24 ACEL 8-Man Football Schedule

Acadiana Christian School Lions—New Iberia
First Baptist Christian School Eagles—Lafayette
John Paul the Great Academy Guardians—Lafayette
Mt. Olive Christian School Eagles—Athens
***Northshore Vultures—New Orleans**
Southwest Louisiana Homeschool Athletics Knights—Lake Charles

*Ineligible for post-season participation

August 10, Thursday

Northshore@MOCS
ACS@JPG
SWLA@FBCS

August 17, Thursday

Northshore@ACS
MOCS@SWLA
FBCS@JPG

August 24, Thursday

JPG@Northshore
SWLA@ACS
FBCS@MOCS

August 31, Thursday

JPG@SWLA
ACS@MOCS
Northshore@FBCS

September 7, Thursday

MOCS@JPG
SWLA@Northshore
FBCS@ACS

September 14, Thursday

Bye Week

September 21, Thursday

ACS@Northshore
SWLA@MOCS
JPG@FBCS

September 28, Thursday

Northshore@JPG
ACS@SWLA
MOCS@FBCS

October 5, Thursday

MOCS@ACS
SWLA@JPG
FBCS@Northshore

October 12, Thursday

Northshore@SWLA
JPG@MOCS
ACS@FBCS

All games must be completed by October 13th.

All-State Voting October 21st.

Playoffs

Week of October 16, 2023

Top four teams by regular season power points will advance to the playoffs.
Highest seed will host Semi-Final games.

2023-24 ACEL 8-Man Football State Championship

Evening of

October 28, 2023

Pineville