

9U RULES

A. All Punts are dead ball plays until the ball is kicked. The offensive team must announce its intention to punt. Once a punt is declared, the clock will stop and will restart as soon as the ball is punted. The offense must then punt the ball and the defense may not interfere with such attempts. No player may cross the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. Penalty for violation of this rule is five (5) yards. The punting team must assume a normal punt formation with no more than 18-inch splits tackle-to-tackle and remain in the same formation until the ball is kicked. The punter must remain within the tackles and behind the line of scrimmage until the ball is punted. The receiving team must line up with a minimum of six (6) players within two yards of the line of scrimmage anywhere along the LOS and may not move until the ball is punted.

B. Field goals and extra-point kicks will be a free kick (like the punt). Neither the offense nor defense shall move across the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball. The kicking team shall be allowed to take a direct snap and must place the ball on the block directly behind the center, and at least five (5) yards behind the line of scrimmage. A successful extra point kick is worth 2 points and field goals are worth 3 points.

C. The defense may have NO MORE than six (6) players within three (3) yards of the line of scrimmage at the start of any play, and no player other than the allotted six may move forward toward the line of scrimmage until the ball is snapped. ONCE the ball is snapped all players can advance. So for clarification, if you have a 6-3 or 6-2 defense, the linebackers MUST be at least three (3) yards back off the line. Once the ball is snapped they can advance (or blitz, if you prefer); however, they cannot advance inside of three yards from the line of scrimmage before the snap. If you are playing a 4-4 then 2 of your linebackers must be three (3) yards off the ball. Penalty for this violation is five (5) yards; this is a live ball foul and the offense has the choice of the play or the penalty.

D. One coach is allowed on the field for Division I levels, and two coaches are allowed on the field for the first half of the regular season at the Division II levels. At Division II, only one coach shall be allowed on the field after the first half of the regular season. Once the offense breaks the huddle or the ball is on the kicking tee on a kickoff the coaches on the field cannot speak or coach in any way and must remain ten (10) yards behind the team's most distant player from the line of scrimmage for the duration of the play. Failure to comply will result in a ten (10) yard penalty and possible disciplinary action by the Rules Committee.

E. The center may position and grip the ball as necessary to snap the ball. This would include placing the ball parallel to the line of scrimmage, allowing his hand, head and shoulders to be in the neutral zone.