

North Tonawanda

2021 Flag Football Rules

Divisions:

3rd – 5th Grade Boys

6th – 8th Grade Boys

5th – 8th Grade Girls



Website:

<https://www.ntyouthcenter.com/football>

Twitter: @NTYouthCenter

Facebook: North Tonawanda Youth Center

Email: mbernas@northtonawanda.org

I. **Mission Statement**

The main objectives of the North Tonawanda Parks & Recreation Youth Flag Football League are based upon providing a positive and fun atmosphere for youth athletes to learn and improve on the fundamentals of football in a competitive environment that emphasizes teamwork and sportsmanship.

This will be accomplished by:

- Maximizing playing time by limiting team sizes.
- Coaching with positive reinforcement and an emphasis on building confidence.
- Teaching the fundamentals of football in a fun and positive manner.
- Encouraging competitiveness without sacrificing sportsmanship or teamwork.
- Providing a socially safe and sanitary play experience

II. **Sportsmanship**

1. Good sportsmanship applies to all players, coaches, umpires and spectators. Everyone is expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship.
2. Smoking, drinking, and the use of illegal drugs is prohibited within the vicinity of the fields. The Recreation Department may take further action against the offender if warranted, such as a suspension.
3. The use of abusive language will NOT be tolerated from the players, coaches or spectators. Immediate ejection from the playing area will result from such actions. The Recreation Department may take further action against the offender if warranted.
4. Coaches utilizing strategies that are not in the best interest of the development of the league participants may be released from the coaching position by the Recreation Department.

III. **General Format, and Rules** (Rule changes denoted in red)

- A. The NT Youth, Parks and Recreation will notify coaches and parents of rainouts. The Recreation Department will reschedule postponed games if possible. Updates will be provided on our website <https://www.ntyouthcenter.com/football>, Facebook page, (<https://www.facebook.com/NTYouthCenter/>) Twitter accounts (@NTYouthCenter), and, via email and text blasts..
- B. All games will start at the designated times. Game time is start time.
- C. We will use a Flag Football format
- D. 5 on 5 play

- E. If a team is short-handed, game format will be decreased to 4 on 4 to ensure a fair game.
- F. Team rosters will be comprised of 7-8 players.
- G. No offensive or defensive line play.
- H. Blocking is not allowed - players on the offensive team are not allowed to block for teammates once the ball is into the hands of a child player.
 - a. If players block, regardless of intent, it is a penalty.
 - b. Offensive players should freeze after their teammate has the ball.
 - c. Teams have the option of running hand-offs and utilizing reverses and trick-plays, however, blocking on these plays is not allowed.
- I. "No Run Zone"- Any area 10 yards before each end zone designated by appropriate markers.
 - a. Teams will not be permitted to execute run plays within 10 yards of the end zone.
 - b. This prevents teams from easily scoring on power run plays.
- J. Hand-offs are not allowed while in the no-run zone.
- K. No players will be rushing the quarterback.
 - a. The QB only has 10 seconds to get rid of the ball.
 - b. A referee will keep track of the time, and count the time out loud for the QB and players to hear.
 - c. If the QB does not get rid of the ball in 10 seconds, it will be a loss of down.
- L. Games will be comprised of four, 8-minute quarters for regulation.
- M. The games will utilize a running clock except during:
 - a. All dead balls during the final minute of each quarter.
 - b. Temporary stoppages on "punts," for teams to switch sides. Once teams are in the huddle, the clock will start again.
- N. The change to quarters will allow for additional water and breathing breaks along the sideline.
- O. Breaks between the 1st and 3rd quarters will be 90 seconds, and half-time break will be 3 minutes.
- P. 35-second play clock will begin at the completion of each play, starting at the time the ball is returned to the Quarterback.
- Q. Each team has up to 4 downs (unless there is a penalty that states otherwise) to cross the mid-field marker. Once the offensive team has crossed mid-field, the team has up to 4 downs to score (unless there is a penalty that states otherwise).
- R. There are no punts. If a team chooses on fourth down to "punt" the defensive team will receive the ball and start possession on their own 10-yard line.
- S. Overtime rules, similar to college football overtime rules, are in effect.
- T. There are no fumbles. Once the ball hits the ground, it is considered a dead ball.
- U. Players are down once one flag is pulled. If a player physically tackles another player, a penalty will be assessed.
- V. The end of the play will be signified by the whistle of the referee.

IV. **Rosters and playing time:**

- A. Teams are finalized at the start of the season. Once a player plays on one team, they may not quit to play on another team. Only the supervisor can make changes if they deem it is

necessary. Requests of team placement with coaches or players are not guaranteed unless it is to be with a family member.

- B. If a team has 4 players or less at game time the shorthanded team will forfeit the game.
- C. Playing time should be equal for all players, to the best of their coach's abilities. If a player is believed to have played an unequal amount of time, the referee or supervisor reserves the right to equalize the playing time if necessary.

V. Penalties

A. OFFENSE

- a. Delay of Game- When a team fails to snap the ball prior within the 35 second play clock.
Result: 5 yard penalty.
- b. False Start- An offensive player is not set at the snap of the ball.
Result: 5 yard penalty.
- c. Pass Interference: An offensive player pushes or illegally contacts a defender in attempt to gain an advantage to catch the ball
Result: 10 yard penalty and loss of down.

B. DEFENSE

- a. Delay of Game- Any blatant attempt to stall an offense from getting a play off.
Result: Automatic first down awarded to the offense.
- b. Offsides: Crossing the line of scrimmage before the play is initiated.
Result: 5 yard penalty
- c. Pass Interference: Hindering an offensive player from catching the ball by making illegal contact.
Result: Ball placed at the place of the foul; automatic first down
- d. Unsportsmanlike Penalty- When a player demonstrates unsportsmanlike behavior which includes, but is not limited to: foul language, taunting, fighting, excessive force (tackling, shoving), or any other behavior deemed inappropriate. Any player receiving two unsportsmanlike penalties within the same game will be removed from the game and suspended for the next scheduled game.

Key Contact Information

Michelle Bernas - NT Youth Programming
Supervisor

Mbernas@northtonawanda.org
(716) 695-8520 ext. 5510

Nick Kraus – Flag Football League Supervisor

ntyouthrecsports@gmail.com

Alex Domaradzki -NT Dept. of Youth, Recreation,
And Parks Director

alex@northtonawanda.org
(716) 695-8520 ext. 5500

NT Recreation Main Office

(716) 695-8520 Press 0