

# McKinney Sports Connection Tackle Football Rules 2018



General rules and exceptions to the UIL & NCAA football rulebook to  
accommodate McKinney Sports Connection Youth Tackle Football

MSC Tackle  
Football policies  
and procedures

- I. McKinney Sports Connection (MSC) General Operations
  - a. Mission Statement:
    - i. To provide young athletes the opportunity to play football in an environment where teamwork and sportsmanship are the focal points of success. Prepare all football players to achieve success at the next level of play. MSC insists on coaches who represent themselves as role models to the community both on and off the field.
  - b. General football rules
    - i. MSC shall follow the State of Texas UIL football rules and procedures which are generally governed by the official NCAA football rulebook. Links to both rulebooks are as follows:
      - ii. <https://www.uil texas.org/football/manual>
      - iii. [http://www.uil texas.org/files/athletics/manuals/16-17The\\_Football\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.uil texas.org/files/athletics/manuals/16-17The_Football_Manual.pdf)
      - iv. <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/FR17updated.pdf>
    - v. All officiating crews for MSC scheduled and sanctioned games shall follow the above general governance only with noted MSC exceptions noted later in this document.
  - c. Sportsmanship
    - i. **Coaches:** All MSC coaches are required to demonstrate positive sportsmanship on and off the field in respect to their players, parents, opposing team players, parents, coaches, and the game officials. Coaches who are unable to demonstrate the proper sportsmanship will be subject to disciplinary action from the MSC Board of Directors. Any coach who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be required to leave the field of play and will be unable to coach in the next scheduled game. This includes postseason play. The continued demonstration of improper sportsmanship may result in suspension or permanent removal from MSC.
    - ii. **Participants:** Sportsmanship is a priority in the development of MSC athletes. All participants must demonstrate positive sportsmanship at all times. Those who cannot will be dismissed from the game. Any player/participant receiving two (2) unsportsmanlike conduct or personal foul penalties during a game shall be automatically ejected from the game. Any player/participant ejected from any game shall automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game including playoff games. The continued demonstration of improper sportsmanship will result in a disciplinary hearing by the MSC Board of Directors resulting in a minimum 2 game suspension and potential permanent ejection from MSC.
    - iii. **Spectators:** All spectators will be expected to demonstrate positive sportsmanship while observing MSC sanctioned activities. MSC sanctioned activities include games, practices, and team gatherings. Spectators who cannot maintain generally acceptable behavior will be required to leave the game site (as determined by the head official during that game) and will be suspended for the next scheduled game including the playoffs. If a spectator incident results in the summoning of the local authorities, the spectator responsible for the actions shall be suspended for the next two scheduled games including the playoffs. If a spectator has the authorities called on them more than once during a season, the spectator and the player will be permanently removed from the MSC. The continued demonstration of improper sportsmanship by a spectator may constitute suspension from any number of games.
  - d. Important dates
    - i. 21 April 2018 – 2018 MSC Rulebook released
    - ii. 20 April 2018 – MSC Registration open
    - iii. 01 May 2018 – Coaches USA Football Certification start
    - iv. 23 June 2018 – MSC Registration close



- v. 07 July 2018 – MSC Late Registration closed
- vi. 10 July 2018 – MSC Draft & Mandatory coaches meeting
- vii. 11 July 2018 – MSC Rosters locked for 2018 Season
- viii. 12 July 2018 – Conditioning Camps may begin (following league rules set forth below)
- ix. 20 July 2018 – **ALL Coaches** must have USA Football Certification complete
- x. 20 July 2018 – First helmet only practices may begin (following league rules set forth below)
- xi. 25 July 2018 – Full pad practices may begin (following league rules set forth below)
- xii. \*\*TBD August 2018 – Mandatory MISD Coaches Clinic
- xiii. 04 August 2018 – MSC Weigh-in
- xiv. 06 August 2018 – MSC schedule released
- xv. 25 August 2018 – Kickoff weekend (first games)
- xvi. 27 October 2018 – First round of playoffs
- xvii. 03 November 2018 – Second round of playoffs
- xviii. 10 November 2018 – Championship games

II. MSC Structure and league rules

a. MSC Board of Directors (Board)

- i. The MSC Board is the governing body for the MSC football program. The Council will consist of representatives from each division of play, the Administrative Director as well as the League Director. The Administrative Director and the League Director, jointly, have the authority to make decisions independent of the MSC Board for the good of the league. The MSC Advisory Board reserves the right to modify, change, or create any rule that is in the best interest of the MSC Football programs and/or its participants. All coaches will be provided Board member contact information for their respective division. Coaches are expected to contact their division director with any questions, comments or clarifications needed prior to contacting the league or administrative director of MSC. All members of the MSC Board are volunteers providing their time and experience to facilitate structure to football activities and season.

b. MSC Board Members

- i. League Commissioner – John Wesloski
- ii. League Administrator – Michelle Pittman
- iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Director – John Wesloski
- iv. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Director – Kelvin Thomas
- v. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Director – David McWhirter
- vi. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Director – Paul Kawamoto
- vii. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Director – Tim Woolen

c. League Division Structure

- i. MSC will be divided into multiple divisions as presented below. In addition, each division may further be divided into individual conferences. The intent is that all teams, whether highly competitive or somewhat more recreational, are able to compete with teams of like ability whenever possible. MSC intends to create a balanced schedule for all teams to enjoy varied levels of competition. The schedule when released is final with no changes considered.
- ii. Grade and age limitations. Each individual player shall go by grade first then age.
  - 1. Division 2 – Player must be registered in their respective school in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and prior to August 1, 2018 have not reached the age of 9
  - 2. Division 3 – Player must be registered in their respective school in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and prior to August 1, 2018 have not reached the age of 10
  - 3. Division 4 – Player must be registered in their respective school in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and prior to August 1, 2018 have not reached the age of 11



4. Division 5 – Player must be registered in their respective school in the 5th grade and prior to August 1, 2018 have not reached the age of 12
  5. Division 6 – Player must be registered in their respective school in the 6th grade and prior to August 1, 2018 have not reached the age of 13
- d. Player Eligibility
- i. Player age and registration eligibility: All players from the ages of 7 through 12 years of age (a player cannot turn 13 before August 1, 2018) are eligible for play. A player may request to participate in a higher grade/age group but may not play in a lower grade/age group. In order for a child to be considered registered, he or she must have a completed registration form.
  - ii. **All coaches must inform their families that, upon request, MSC may need to view a copy of all of their players' birth certificates to validate ages if there are any questions regarding a players' age and/or eligibility. The family or families for such a request will have 5 calendar days to comply. If the coach, player, or parent will not supply a birth certificate upon request, that player will be immediately and permanently dismissed from McKinney Sports Connection. No refunds will be considered.**
  - iii. Additionally, a player may only participate with their team if all league dues (registration fee) are paid in full. Any player who has not paid their registration fee by 21 July 2018, will be ineligible to participate in any activity with their respective team. Communication to the head coach will be sent via email. If a player does participate without paying their dues, the player will be suspended for the first two (2) games of the season and be charged a late fee.
- e. Coaches Eligibility
- i. The Football Commissioner will approve all coaching applicants and a background investigation process will be utilized. The selection of all Coaches (including all assistant coaches) will be at the discretion of the Football Commissioner. If approved by the commissioner, returning coaches will be able to move up each year with their previous year's team. An individual may be denied coaching privileges for past violation of MSC code of ethics, coaches' contract, conduct code, or improper on-the-field or off-the-field conduct. No coach or assistant coach may participate in any team meetings, workouts, or games until he or she is registered and officially assigned to a team and has signed an MSC football coach contract.
  - ii. Any Coach or Assistant Coach, or any other person who has left the MSC football league with a team, or part of a team and has taken, accepted, recruited, or who otherwise left with or attempted to recruit or take a player or players off of any roster of any other team in any division within MSC will not be allowed to return to Coach MSC Football in any capacity for 2 complete calendar years from the violation.
  - iii. After 2 complete calendar years the person(s) may appear before the football board for a hearing to determine if he/she may return. There is no guarantee that the person will be allowed to return after 2 years.
  - iv. Team "break up". If a team from the previous season ceases to exist, all coaches from the previous coaching staff must receive explicit permission from the league administration to join a new team / coaching staff. If this permission is granted, the new team may possess no more than 2 players from the previous roster from which the coach was associated.
  - v. Only coaches who have not had their coaching privileges revoked in any MSC sport and are in good standing with the league will be considered for coaching opportunities. All Head Coaches must be at least 21 years of age.
  - vi. All coaches must be officially registered through MSC utilizing the registration process via the MSC website ([www.mckinneysportsconnection.org](http://www.mckinneysportsconnection.org) )



- vii. All coaches must submit and pay for a general background check prior to engaging with any player or team activity. This is part of the registration process
- viii. All coaches must complete a mandatory course with USA Football ([www.usafootball.com](http://www.usafootball.com)). Coaches who do not complete this course by 20 July 2018 will not be eligible to provide coaching/instruction to their respective team for the season.
- ix. Each team in each division is limited to five (5) coaches to be on the field with their team at any time. All coaches and other assistants who have regular interaction with the players, must be registered, have completed background checks, have completed all coursework and have a valid MSC badge. Background checks are done by a third party service. Each coach will be charged a fee to complete their background check and coursework for USA Football. There are no exceptions to the background check process or the USA Football certification.
- x. Obtaining badges
  - 1. Each Coach for every team must obtain a badge through a designated service facilitated by MSC
  - 2. The official photographer for any team must also have an MSC badge following the same rules herein
  - 3. To obtain a badge, there will be a fee to have the badge printed
  - 4. Coaches may exercise the option to have the fees for the badges waived if they commit to team photographs with the partner photography company MSC designates.
- xi. Coaches conduct
  - 1. All coaches associated with MSC are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, sportsmanship and as an exemplary member of the community both on and off the field of play.
  - 2. Coaches must not engage in public displays of aggressive or heated arguments with other coaches.
  - 3. Coaches must not engage in public displays of aggressive or heated exchanges with game or league officials.
  - 4. Coaches must not engage in behavior to disrupt league organization and/or harmony as this leads to general discord of the league as a whole.
  - 5. Any coach associated with MSC who displays a pattern of behavior which is disruptive or disparaging towards the league, directors, teams or the board will be suspended for four (4) games for the first incident and dismissed from the league on the second incident
  - 6. Use of social media. Coaches are encouraged to utilize social media to provide a platform of positivity for their teams and the league. Social media must be used responsibly and not to be disruptive or disparaging towards the league, directors, other teams, families, players or the board. MSC prohibits the use of social media by the coaches, players, families or associates to disparage, insult, intimidate or disrupt the general spirit of competition and/or organization of the league. All social media whether considered "private" or public in nature is subject to review. If a person is caught violating the MSC social media policy, the head coach of the associated team shall be suspended for two (2) games for the first offense (including playoffs) and four (4) games for the second and subsequent offense(s) (including playoffs).

### III. Pre-season Logistics and activities

#### a. Team Formation

- i. **All returning teams and newly formed teams must have a minimum number of 12 returning players by the end of the MSC late registration 07 July 2018.**



**For a team to be considered for competition in MSC, the roster must consist of a minimum of 15 players by the end of the MSC draft on 10 July 2018.**

If a team that has been formed has not met the above criteria, MSC will disband that team and conduct a supplemental draft to provide the players an opportunity to continue to participate in the league with a team that has met or exceeded the minimum roster thresholds. In the case of an existing MSC team who has a head coach that has decided not to return to the league, that coach will be ineligible to coach in any capacity in MSC football for two (2) tackle football seasons. There are exceptions to this rule which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The intent is to prevent coaches stepping down from one team only to take players to other teams and still act in a coaching capacity. The team the coach is leaving will be reviewed for disbandment. If a replacement coach cannot be found and approved to keep the team together, then the players on that team will be placed at the discretion of the Board on to teams or into the draft pool. After all registration periods close, teams may be required to add players from the open registration to their roster to ensure that all open registration players are assigned to a team. **All players who are in good standing and have completed the registration and payment processes on time are guaranteed a spot to play in MSC.**

- ii. Roster exception rule: All teams will be eligible for two (2) roster exceptions each season. This means that a player from an existing team may play for another team in that same division. Each head coach is allowed for two (2) of these roster exceptions. Effectively, if desired, a coach may “recruit” and or “pick up” two players from opposing teams if desired and the player and family agree. There will be no grace in this rule no matter the circumstances.
- iii. Player “free agency”. A player shall become an unrestricted “free agent” if and only if the team they played for the previous season ceases to exist. There are no other circumstances which a player may become a “free agent”.
- iv. Once the MSC draft is concluded, no players may be added to the rosters by a coaches’ request. Any player wishing to join the McKinney Sports Connection shall be placed on a team by the MSC Board. The player may not be placed on a team that he or she requests. If the player refuses to play for a team which he or she is placed on, they will be removed from the league and given a 50% refund of their registration fee.
- v. It is against MSC rules for teams to hold tryouts, hand out flyers or bring out one or more players with the purpose of evaluating them in order to decide which players they want to recruit, add to their roster, or draft. The head coach will be suspended for four (4) games if found in violation.
- vi. Open Draft process
  1. **ALL teams must participate** in the MSC open draft regardless of roster size to ensure all players are selected.
  2. Head coaches will be provided with the following information for all players in the open draft. All of this information is provided by the family of the player and the MSC board will not independently validate unless there are eligibility questions
    - a. Name
    - b. School attending
    - c. Birthdate
    - d. Height
    - e. Weight
    - f. Prior tackle experience (Y/N)?
  3. Teams with 16 or more players will not select any players until all teams in their division also have 16 players on the roster. At that point the following will apply.



4. Draft order – When applicable, the Board will determine the draft order based upon the following criteria in order
  - a. Previous overall season record (\*\*if there is a tie, the division director will determine the draft order based upon a coin flip. The team name first in alphabetical order will “call” the flip.).
  - b. Previous sub-division season record (\*\*if there is a tie, the division director will determine the draft order based upon a coin flip. The team name first in alphabetical order will “call” the flip.).
  - c. Existing roster size (each team in the division needs to meet the minimum threshold of 15 players)
5. Draft day order
  - a. Round 1 – Team with the least amount of wins shall draft first. All subsequent teams will draft according to the amount of wins
  - b. Round 2 – Team with the least amount of wins shall draft first. All subsequent teams will draft according to the amount of wins
  - c. Round 3 - Team with the least amount of wins shall draft first. All subsequent teams will draft according to the amount of wins
  - d. If a team remains in the draft process after meeting the minimum threshold of players after round 3, but has less wins than a team that has not yet met the minimum, the team with the less amount of players shall choose first. This will continue for the remaining rounds
- vii. New Teams From Outside MSC - Teams may be formed from outside of MSC. These teams may participate with the approval of the MSC Football Board. MSC reserves the right to deny access to outside teams for any reason the board deems necessary to protect the integrity of the league. ***NEW TEAMS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF AT LEAST 75% OF THEIR RETURNING PLAYERS from the year before via roster from previous league. The head coach must also supply contact information to the MSC board of their previous league board as a reference. The MSC board shall contact the previous league to discuss the team and head coach’s general disposition in their league. Only the league Director and board can override this deemed as special circumstances***
- viii. Returning coaches with less than 3 wins
  1. Returning coaches with less than 3 wins in the prior season must supply a description on the following to the league and administrative directors:
  2. What did the coach and staff learn from the year before and what will they do different this year to better prepare their boys? (If team was an expansion team the year before then please make sure to state this.)
  3. Detail (Practices, scrimmages and team structure etc.) this can be sent via email or word doc to the league director prior to signing up as coach
  4. This is put in place to ensure that each coach is providing their best effort in this volunteer role. If a coach has logistical problems in completing their football duties, an introspective and league evaluation needs to be completed for the benefit of the players. The responsibility of a head football coach is tremendous. Time, personal schedule, family, social sacrifices and other variables should be taken into consideration prior to making this commitment to 15+ players and their families.
- b. Individual player joining MSC
  - i. All players may only register for and play for one team
  - ii. All players must register through the MSC website, complete all payments and follow the general guidelines herein.
  - iii. Returning Players Guarantee - Any player wishing to return to his team from the previous season will be guaranteed a spot on that team. All coaches must make



an effort to contact the parents of their players from the previous season. Coaches must email their team giving parents a minimum of two weeks to respond as to if their player will be returning. This email must be cc'd to the director for the grade level. Any returned email from a parent of a player not returning must also be forwarded to the grade level director. They must report the results to their Division Director by no later than 01 June 2018. The football board will verify the choice of the parents by contacting them.

- iv. Player Transfers - To facilitate fairness and a competitive environment, players who request to transfer off of a team will be added to the open registration and will be selected to another team via the open draft. The league will generally not accept requests to play for a specific team, or coach, or to play with friends if a player has left another MSC team. There are exceptions to this process which **only the League Director and board can override if deemed as special circumstances. Examples of special circumstances may include; if a player has moved to a new city, family changes have dictated logistical challenges, legitimate mentoring programs. The roster exception rule shall apply if a player and their new team falls within the rules previously mentioned.**
- v. Players Who Left the League on Teams Whose Coaches Cannot Return - The players in our community are always welcome to play MSC Football. Players who left the league and joined a team that was not formed in accordance with MSC football team formation rules and/or that could not have been formed to play in MSC football may return to the league only as individual players. At this stage, they will be declared as "free agents" and may join any team in their division.
- vi. Players Who Left the League as Individuals - **players** who have left the league as individuals and wish to return to the league will either be placed on the team they played for prior if accepted, or will be placed in the open draft if they return within two seasons of their departure. If they player would like to return after two full seasons of their departure, they may return as a "free agent". This rule applies to any player who has played MSC tackle football at any point, left the league, and wishes to return for a later season. **Only the League Director and board can override this when deemed as special circumstances.**
- vii. Recruited Players - Players who have not played MSC Football may be asked to join an MSC Football team. Coaches may actively approach the parents of these players in an effort to encourage their participation in MSC. A player who played MSC football during the last two full seasons may not be recruited. The only exceptions are a player who played up a grade level in the previous season and now chooses to play in his current grade or a player who played his grade level last year but wants to play up for the upcoming season. If the player decides to play back down during another season he must return to the original team they were registered on OR enter the open draft. A player is able to play up 1 grade but cannot play down a grade.
- viii. Open Registration Players - Open Registration Players consists of new players that sign up through the MSC website, are new to the league, and have not been recruited by any existing teams. These players may be used to fill expansion teams or be placed on existing teams via the open draft. The Football Board will assign open registration players at their discretion if necessary. All players who have registered on time and provided full payment are guaranteed a spot to play within MSC.
- ix. Player Draft Exemption - A player in the open draft has no choice on which team he/she is drafted, but may identify **one** team for which he does not want to play for.
- x. Players' Eligibility - After registration ends, a player who desires to register late has no guarantee to be placed on a team. Players who attempt to register after





league registration is closed and draft process is complete WILL NOT be granted placement on a team based upon their or a coaches request. A player who registers after the draft process (if granted registration) will be placed on a team at the sole discretion of the Board. This is to avoid continued recruiting from other league teams. There are no exceptions.

- c. Player weigh-ins
  - i. ALL MSC players must attend the weigh-in regardless of eligibility to carry the football as a “skill position”
  - ii. “Skill Position” definition (locations where a player that has not exceeded the prescribed maximum weight for their respective division may play if appropriate)
    - 1. Offense
      - a. Quarterback
      - b. Running back (full back or tail back)
      - c. Receiver (wide or slot)
    - 2. Defense
      - a. Cornerback
      - b. Safety
      - c. Linebacker
    - 3. Tight end exemption (only applies to a player who has exceeded the prescribed weight limit – all weight eligible players at this position are not subject to the following restrictions)
      - a. A player who has exceeded the prescribed division maximum weight is eligible to play tight end.
      - b. A tight end is defined as an offensive player on the line of scrimmage next to or no more than two (2) yards outside of the offensive tackle.
      - c. At the tight end position, this player is NOT eligible to receive a direct handoff or lateral to advance the ball.
      - d. For the player at the tight end position to carry the football, it must be done by a legal, forward pass only.
  - iii. Dates
    - 1. There will be one (1) weigh in date. If a player misses the date, that player will be deemed ineligible to play in a “skill” position, thus ineligible to carry the football.
    - 2. MSC weigh-in date – 04 August 2018
    - 3. There are no exceptions to the dates published regardless of circumstances.
  - iv. Weigh-in rules
    - 1. ALL MSC players in divisions 2-5 must attend the weigh-in
    - 2. Players MUST have THEIR helmets with them
    - 3. Players will be weighed WITH their helmets to account for the total player weight
    - 4. Players must wear “normal” clothing for the weigh-in (players may not remove clothing to make weight)
    - 5. Players must wear closed toed athletic shoes during the weigh-in. Sandals, flip-flops, slides or any other shoes are not acceptable.
    - 6. Players who have met the prescribed weight limits (met exact limit or under) will have an MSC sticker affixed to their helmet at the time of the weigh-in. Coaches attempting to place a sticker on a helmet of an ineligible player will be immediately suspended for four (4) games, the player suspended for two (2) games and the player will not be able to play in any “skill” position or the tight-end position for the season.
    - 7. All player weights shall be recorded at the time of the weigh-in with the players’ jersey number. The head coach will confirm the final roster with



player's names, weight and jersey number. If a player is found to be wearing a jersey with a number not originally provided during the weigh-in, the head coach will be suspended for four (4) games, the player suspended for two (2) games and the player will not be able to play in any "skill" position or the tight-end position for the season.

v. MSC weigh limits

1. There are no weight restrictions for playing in the MSC Football League. Weight restrictions do apply for players who play a "skill" position that can carry/catch the ball. The following weight limits (determined out of uniform, with helmet, but in street clothes and shoes) are for the safety of all football players in the MSC.
2. Division 2 – weight limit may meet, but not exceed 75.0 pounds
3. Division 3 – weight limit may meet, but not exceed 105.0 pounds
4. Division 4 – weight limit may meet, but not exceed 115.0 pounds
5. Division 5 – weight limit may meet, but not exceed 125.0 pounds
6. Division 6 – No Weight limit. Any player is eligible to carry the ball

IV. Season and game-day regulations / logistics

a. MSC OFFICE NUMBER: 972.832.9256

b. MSC Football Commissioner: 972.832.2500

c. MSC Communications

- i. In addition, the MSC communicates through e-mail. This helps keep everyone informed and updated about the program. MSC staff can also be reached via the web site at [www.McKinneySportsConnection.org](http://www.McKinneySportsConnection.org) : [office@mckinneysportsconnection.org](mailto:office@mckinneysportsconnection.org), [michelle@mckinneysportsconnection.org](mailto:michelle@mckinneysportsconnection.org) , or [football@mckinneysportsconnection.org](mailto:football@mckinneysportsconnection.org) .

d. Liability

- i. The McKinney Sports Connection shall not be held liable for any Coach, Player or Cheerleader injury incurred during practice or game play. It is the responsibility of the individual Team, Coach, Player and Cheerleader to observe all safety precautions during football activities
- ii. Any and all medical related expenses due to any injury incurred by the Coach, Player or Cheerleader will be the sole responsibility of that participant and their family. The McKinney Sports Connection will not be responsible for any personal expenses related to injury, lost wages or any other monetary loss.
- iii. Any injury incurred must be reported to the McKinney Sports Connection via the Head Coach of the team or cheer squad within 24 hours by utilizing the contact information contained herein.
- iv. In choosing to join a team associated with the McKinney Sports Connection, the individual Coach, Player and Cheerleader is completely indemnifying the McKinney Sports Connection, all board members, league directors, grade directors and administrators of any responsibility due to injury.

e. Inclement weather

- i. Coaches should first check their email and/or the MSC website for a notice of cancellation before calling the MSC number if there is a question of cancellation due to dangerous weather or unplayable field conditions Inclement weather decisions are usually made after 4:00 pm on weekdays and 7:00 am on weekends.
- ii. On game day, or during a game, the lead official will determine if conditions are unsafe and inform both head coaches of the decision to delay or cancel the game. If a game is canceled, MSC will make every attempt to reschedule.

f. Heat Index

- i. MSC will follow the same procedure used by the MISD Middle School policy. Heat index will be determined at 5pm on the practice day using [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). Any coach found violating this policy will face a two (2) game



suspension for the first offense and a four (4) game suspension for the second offense. This is a safety issue which MSC has a zero tolerance policy

- g. Team uniforms
  - i. Team uniforms are to be purchased at the individual player/team cost and must be consistent with a standard football uniform
  - ii. All players must wear a standard jersey with a clearly identifiable number (minimum 8" numbers) printed or affixed to the jersey
  - iii. Uniform jersey numbers must be in a contrasting color to the actual jersey for easy identification
  - iv. The head coach must provide the predominant jersey color to their division director so this may be communicated to other teams to plan for potential similar colors during a game.
  - v. It is highly advised that each team acquire pinnies for all their players in case of jersey color conflict during a game. MSC does not regulate uniform colors and shall not supply alternate jersey's or pinnies to accommodate game logistics.
- h. Player equipment
  - i. All players must acquire their own equipment. The MSC can exclude a player from play due to unsafe or improper equipment. Proper equipment includes the following.
  - ii. Football helmet: Including face mask, chin strap, and mouth piece. The helmet should be one of quality and fit properly to ensure the player's safety. No football helmet shall be painted.
  - iii. Football shoulders pads: Must fit properly and protect the entire shoulder girdle.
  - iv. Football pants: Complete with hip, tail, thigh, and knee pads.
  - v. Athletic shoes: Those designed for grass play are recommended (NO METAL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED).
  - vi. Mouthpiece: Must properly fit the upper teeth, attached to helmet. No clear or red mouthpieces are allowed for safety reasons.
  - vii. All equipment must generally follow all UIL and NCAA standards
- i. Practices
  - i. Conditioning Practice: No helmets, no pads, non-mandatory. Limit 3 per week 1 hour sessions. May begin conditioning practices 12 July 2018
  - ii. Mandatory practices may commence no earlier than 20 July 2018
  - iii. The first three (3) mandatory practices must be "helmet only" practices. Players may only wear their helmets for the first three (3) practices of the season.
  - iv. The first eligible date of "full pad / full go" practice is 25 July 2018
  - v. ALL players must first practice in three (3) sessions in helmets only before dressing in full equipment. For example, if a player misses any of the first three team helmet only practices he/she may practice with the team upon their return, but they MUST be in helmet only until the requirement is met. This is a safety issue to acclimatize the player to the helmet, heat stress and overall physical demand of the helmet. Any head coach of the team accused found to be in violation of this rule will receive an automatic two (2) game suspension.
  - vi. Only registered players can participate in a practice (player must be on official roster on MSC website).
  - vii. Players who will be in the league draft cannot participate in or with another team's practice
  - viii. Once scheduled game play begins, practices will be limited to a total of 6 hours per week with no more than 2 hours per individual practice, no more than 3 days per week.
  - ix. All players must attend scheduled team practices. Coaches may limit playing time of players who do not attend practices. On game day, if necessary, coaches must inform game officials and opposing coaches of any player restriction prior to



the coin toss. In addition, this should be communicated to the player's parents prior and to MSC Football Director via email at least 24 hours prior to the game.

- x. Scrimmages, parent meetings and film watching are all considered practices
- xi. Teams may NOT video record (film) any other team's practices under any circumstances (this includes the coaching staff, parents, families, players, associates, etc.). If there is an agreed upon scrimmage which there will be video recording, both head coaches must agree to this and an email must be sent to the division director acknowledging the agreement with date, time and location information. If a team is caught in violation, the head coach of the team accused will be suspended for four (4) games including the playoffs. A second violation may result in the dismissal of the head coach from the league.

j. Game day

- i. Field Headquarters – The Field Headquarters is the press box of the respective facility hosting the game. It is mandatory for each Head Coach or Designee to sign in at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time of their game. At this time, the Head Coach will validate their roster, note any exceptions, note any restrictions on playing time and validate their teams' participation. Here they will receive any instructions that will apply to that game or the league. If the Head Coach does not sign in, his team automatically loses the coin toss.
- ii. Field Rules and Boundaries
  - 1. Sideline tents and/or shades are prohibited from MSC facilities.
  - 2. Home Team- The team listed first on the regular schedule will be considered the Home Team and will occupy the sideline closest to the stands.
  - 3. The Visiting Team will be responsible for providing 3 ADULTS (18 years or older) to handle the yardage and down markers ("chain gang") for the entire game. The "chain gang" is not allowed to coach, engage with the officials, be a "spotter" for the visiting team or provide any extra assistance to the coaching staff. If this any of this occurs, the visiting team shall be assessed a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. A second offense during any single game shall result in the same penalty and the individual shall be removed from the field regardless if it was the same person or a different person on the chain gang.
  - 4. Water boy/girl and/or safety designee
    - a. Each team shall be allowed two (2) water boys/girls under the age of 18
    - b. The water boys/girls may not act as an additional member of the coaching staff. They may administer water or other necessary safety applications only. A violation of this shall result in team a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. A second offense during any single game shall result in the same penalty and the individual shall be removed from the field.
  - 5. Spectators
    - a. All spectators shall remain outside the fenced areas and not on the track during games.
    - b. Any spectator crossing the fenceline to the playing field uninvited and for any reason shall be immediately removed by the local authorities, charged with trespassing and receive a two (2) game suspension for the first offense and permanent ejection for any other offense.
    - c. Any spectator who engages in any type of physical assault on any other person at an MSC event shall be immediately and permanently banned from MSC without exception. Additionally,



- MSC will follow all local laws to ensure that the spectator is punished to the fullest extent allowed in the municipality.
- d. All spectators wishing to video or take pictures from inside the fenced area must receive prior approval from the MSC Director. One approval per team. (Coach identifies.)
6. Electronic communication - There will be no electronic sideline communication devices allowed including cell phones.
  7. Use of video - There will be no video recording or electronic recording of any kind of other teams' games or practices by the coaching staff, parents, associates or other known persons. **A team may only film their own game and practices.** There will be no trading of game films between teams. If a team is found in violation, the head coach of the team accused shall be suspended four (4) games for the first offense (including playoffs) and, if found in violation a second time, the head coach shall be dismissed from the league.
  8. Scouting
    - a. Coaches, players, parents, families or associates are only allowed to arrive at a game day facility one game (generally one hour) before their scheduled game to limit the amount of "scouting" conducted.
    - b. Coaches, players, parents, families or associates are only allowed stay at a game day facility one game (generally one hour) after their scheduled game to limit the amount of "scouting" conducted
    - c. If a violation is found by the board, the head coach of the team accused shall be suspended for two (2) games for the first offense and four (4) games for the second offense including the playoffs.
  9. Football officials may stop the game for any reason deemed necessary for the safety of the players.
  10. **ONLY FIVE (5) COACHES** are allowed on the field on game day with MSC issues identification (must be easily identified). A violation of this rule will result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Each coach must possess and wear their MSC issued coaching badge. Any person (with the exception of the chain gang or water boys/girls) on the sideline without appropriate league issued identification will be asked to leave. If there are more than five (5) coaches on the sideline, regardless of having appropriate badges, the head coach must remove any/all until there is only five (5), or they will assessed another 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and the coaches still need to be removed. A refusal to leave the field will result in trespassing charges filed with the local authorities.
  11. Coaches box – No coach is allowed outside of the coaches box to argue or inquire about any rule or interpretation of a rule. If a coach chooses to step outside of the coaches box or on to the playing field, the official may assess a 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalty for the first offense and eject the coach for the second offense. Any coaches ejection shall result in a subsequent two (2) game suspension.
  12. Fighting and/or physical altercation. Any coach, assistant, player or anyone else on the sideline who engages in any type of fighting or physical altercation shall be immediately and permanently banned from MSC. Additionally, MSC shall work with the local authorities to ensure the violator is punished to the fullest extent of the local law. There are no exceptions to this under any circumstances.



13. Each team will be responsible for cleaning up their sideline areas at games and practice locations.
- iii. Playoffs
    1. The McKinney Sports Connection shall host a single elimination post-season tournament for each division to determine the overall league champion.
    2. All teams shall qualify for the playoffs, however, team participation in the playoffs is not guaranteed. If a team, coaching staff or players have continually violated league rules, the MSC board of directors reserves the right to disqualify that team from the playoffs.
    3. Team participation in the playoffs is a privilege
    4. Playoffs shall be seeded by overall record under typical bracket rules (highest seed plays the first game against the lowest seed and so on)
    5. To facilitate fair play, the MSC board may create two or more playoff brackets per division to provide teams with an opportunity to compete with similarly positioned opponents. This decision shall be made by no later than week 7 of the season.
    6. Playoff seeding is final. Any team that chooses to not participate in the playoffs will have their games recorded as losses potentially impacting their eligibility for the following season.
  - iv. Minimum Playing Rule
    1. All divisions with the exception of injuries: all players in divisions 2 through 5 must play at least 3 quarters of the game.
    2. At any time during the first 3 quarters of the game, each player must be playing on either offense or defense. (This means if a player is not playing on an offensive series, then they must take the field and play when defense goes out, and vice versa for players not playing on defense when the offense take the field. It is the intent that the player play either series, unless hurt, instruction needs to be given, etc. The player is not to be played for two or three plays and then removed and someone else put in their spot). After the first three quarters have elapsed, it is then up to the head coach to continue with the minimum playing rule or play their "best 11". If any violation of this rule is reported to the league, the league reserves the right to review film and will enforce punishment based on its findings. If found in violation, the head coach of the team accused will be suspended for the next scheduled game and game in which violation occurred will be forfeited. Other disciplinary actions may be taken at the discretion of the board
    3. Division 6 players will only be required to play the first 2 quarters under the same conditions as above.
    4. Shuttle Position Rule: A starting position designated as a shuttle player may be used. On offense or defense two players may fulfill their minimum playing time as shuttle players. However, if this is their only starting position, they must play that position for the entire 4 quarters of regulation play. The Shuttle position is a shared position and players designated, as shuttle players will rotate every other play during the game while their assigned unit is on the field. Shuttle player rotation is defined as the player plays one play and comes out, the other player sharing the same position then goes in and plays one play and then comes out.
    5. Special teams plays are not considered part of the minimum playing time
    6. A player may NOT be designated as a "kicker only". All players are expected to participate in live game play outside of special teams.
  - v. Excessive Scoring Margin



1. A thirty (30) or more point spread constitutes an excessive scoring margin. It is the responsibility of the head coach of the team enjoying this margin to keep his team from reaching a 30-point differential. But in doing so, the coach and or players must be discreet in the methods used to keep a large point spread from occurring.
  2. If a team is winning by 28 points or more at any point of the game there will be a running clock and will only stop on timeouts. A team winning by 28 points cannot call a timeout. If margin comes back to less than 28 points a regular clock will take effect at that point.
  3. If the final score of a game has a 30 point or more differential, the head coach of the winning team must submit a written report as to why (including how he scored, what actions were taken to keep the score reasonable, etc.) addressed to the MSC Director and emailed to grade level Director and MSC office by 5:00 pm the following Monday. If that explanation is not emailed by deadline, the team automatically forfeits the game.
  4. If, after reading the report and researching the incident, the MSC division Director determines that not enough effort was made to keep the score within reason, he can issue a warning or recommend additional action to the MSC Board. Subsequent action could include forfeiture of the game, forfeiture of the next game, elimination from playoffs, or other restrictions as seen fit by the Board.
- vi. Player Ejection from Game
1. Any conduct deemed unbecoming of or unsafe for a MSC athlete will result in a fifteen-yard penalty on the first offense.
  2. Permanent Ejection: If a player is permanently ejected from a game, he/she will not be allowed to play the next scheduled game. This includes post-season play. The players' parent and coach must provide a written explanation to the division Director explaining the corrective action for the demonstrated behavior to be eligible to return from the suspension. The division Director will review the incident with the parent and coach along with providing feedback / reinforcement on game and league rules. Continued demonstration of conduct unbecoming of or unsafe for a MSC athlete may constitute suspension from additional games.
- k. Game rules and MSC exceptions
- i. MSC shall follow the State of Texas UIL football rules and procedures which are generally governed by the official NCAA football rulebook. Links to both rulebooks are as follows:
    - ii. <https://www.uiltexas.org/football/manual>
    - iii. [http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/manuals/16-17The\\_Football\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/manuals/16-17The_Football_Manual.pdf)
    - iv. <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/FR17.pdf>
  - v. All officiating crews for MSC scheduled and sanctioned games shall follow the above governance only with noted MSC exceptions below.
  - vi. Game officials are in place to enforce the rules of the game, provide a safe playing environment, provide game structure and provide an environment for good sportsmanship. The game officials' calls are final.
    1. **The officials shall not give "warnings" for any penalties.**
    2. **The officials shall enforce the general rules and exceptions at all times**
  - vii. Player weight limitations
    1. The game officials are expected to monitor player eligibility as identified by the league (Section III, c. v.).



2. All players who are eligible to carry the football as defined by the limitations shall have a sticker affixed to their helmet declaring eligibility.
  3. Any player found in violation of the weight restrictions shall automatically be given a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Any second violation by the team (any other player) shall result in the forfeiture of the game and a two (2) game suspension of the head coach
- viii. MSC rules exceptions
1. Required Number of Players to Start Game
    - a. Divisions 2-6 = 11 players
    - b. If a team does not have the required amount of players present at the time which the lead official declares the start of the game, that team will forfeit that game.
  2. Game clock
    - a. Official game time shall be kept by the game official unless a scoreboard is available that can be seen by both teams.
    - b. All games will consist of two halves, each containing two 8-minute quarters. The game will be timed as in regulation football with the **clock stopping pursuant to official rules**
    - c. If a team is winning by 28 points or more at any point of the game there will be a running clock and will only stop on timeouts. A team winning by 28 points cannot call a timeout. If margin comes back to less than 28 points a regular clock will take effect at that point.
  3. Coin Toss
    - a. There will be a coin toss before each game. Whoever wins the coin toss has 4 options:
    - b. Defer Choice to the second half - which gives the other team a choice from one of the 3 remaining options
    - c. Receive the opening kick - which gives the other team the choice of direction for the entire first half
    - d. Kick off/defend - which gives the other team the choice of direction for the entire first half
    - e. Choose direction - which gives the other team the choice to kick or receive to start the first half
  4. Ball Size
    - a. Divisions 2 - 4 will use a Pee wee size ball. (The Wilson K-2 is an example.)
    - b. Divisions 5 & 6 use a JUNIOR size ball. (The Wilson TDJ is an example.)
  5. On field coaching
    - a. Division 2
      - i. One coach on offense and one coach on defense may be on the field for the entire season.
      - ii. The coaches may be in the huddle to call the plays and provide instruction
      - iii. Once the huddle is broken, the coach on the field may no longer communicate with their team. This includes providing verbal instructions or physically moving a player to the position desired.
      - iv. During live play, the coach on the field is not permitted to continue to communicate to their players
      - v. During live play, the on-field coach must be a minimum of 10 yards behind the deepest player on their respective side. If a coach interferes with a play in any form, a 15





- yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty shall be assessed.
- vi. A violation of the above communication / excessive coaching rules shall result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty
- b. Division 3
  - i. One coach on offense and one coach on defense may be on the field for the entire season.
  - ii. The coaches may be in the huddle to call the plays and provide instruction
  - iii. Once the huddle is broken, the coach on the field may no longer communicate with their team. This includes providing verbal instructions or physically moving a player to the position desired.
  - iv. During live play, the coach on the field is not permitted to continue to communicate to their players
  - v. During live play, the on-field coach must be a minimum of 10 yards behind the deepest player on their respective side. If a coach interferes with a play in any form, a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty shall be assessed.
  - vi. A violation of the above communication / excessive coaching rules shall result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty
- c. Division 4
  - i. One coach on offense and one coach on defense may be on the field for the first two (2) games of the season only.
  - ii. The coaches may be in the huddle to call the plays and provide instruction
  - iii. Once the huddle is broken, the coach on the field may no longer communicate with their team. This includes providing verbal instructions or physically moving a player to the position desired.
  - iv. During live play, the coach on the field is not permitted to continue to communicate to their players
  - v. During live play, the on-field coach must be a minimum of 10 yards behind the deepest player on their respective side. If a coach interferes with a play in any form, a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty shall be assessed.
  - vi. A violation of the above communication / excessive coaching rules shall result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty
  - vii. After the first two games of the season, coaches may only provide instruction from the sideline.
- d. Division 5 and 6 – coaches may only provide instruction from the sideline
- 6. Offense and Defense contact rules
  - a. Offensive players in the tackle box at the snap who are not in motion are allowed to block below the waist legally without restriction. (Man on Man blocking no double teaming below the waist) All other players are restricted from blocking below the waist with a few exceptions (for example, straight-ahead blocks).



A violation shall result in a 15 yard unnecessary roughness penalty

- b. Crack back blocks below the waist are prohibited. A violation shall result in a 15 yard unnecessary roughness penalty.
- c. Targeting – Any player who launches themselves and initiates contact at the shoulder pads or above shall be assessed a 15 yard unnecessary roughness penalty. A second violation of this rule shall result in a game ejection with the aforementioned ejection penalties being applied. Repeated behavior of this type of contact shall result in permanent league suspension.

7. Kicking game

a. Punt

- i. In divisions 3-5 a punt shall be attempted as a “dead ball” play
- ii. In division 3 & 4 only, the official shall advance the ball 25 yards. Divisions 3 & 4 will not physically punt the ball as a result of the potential merged schedules with the Texoma league
- iii. In division 5, the offense must kick the ball and the kicking team must accept the result of the kick.
- iv. Prior to the attempt, the offensive team must clearly declare to the official and the opposing team of their intention
- v. If, after the declaration of intent, the offense calls a timeout, upon taking the field again, the offense must again declare their intention and the official will provide the defense an opportunity to make any adjustments if necessary.
- vi. The kicking team must align in a typical offensive set
- vii. The center must snap the ball through his/her legs to the punter
- viii. The kicker must kick the ball within the tackle box. If a kicker moves outside the tackle box to punt the ball, the offense shall be assessed a 5 yard delay of game penalty. After the penalty, the offense must declare their intent again as above
- ix. From the moment of the snap, the kicking team has 4 seconds to complete the punt. The official shall begin their count upon the snap. A failure to punt within 4 seconds shall be deemed a dead ball and the defense will take the ball over at the existing line of scrimmage.
- x. The defense may try to disrupt the kick by jumping, but may not cross the line of scrimmage. Any player crossing the line of scrimmage shall result in a defensive encroachment penalty of 5 yards and the offense shall receive the benefit of the new spot of the ball. If the spot of the ball does not result in a first down, the offense must declare their intent again as above.
- xi. The defensive team, or returning team, shall field the punt. The ball will be declared dead at the point where the return player has controlled the ball. If the return player touches the ball and the ball advances further from the line of scrimmage, the official shall mark the ball where the player ultimately gains control. If the returning



player touches the ball and it advances forward towards the line of scrimmage, the official shall mark the ball at the spot of the original touch (the ball may not advance due to the player mishandling the ball and the result benefits the returning team).

- xii. In division 6, all punts shall be attempted as “live” play under all normal football rules. The official shall enforce all rules which protect the center

b. Field goal

- i. In divisions 2-5 a field goal shall be attempted as a “dead ball” play
- ii. Prior to the attempt, the offensive team must clearly declare to the official and the opposing team of their intention
- iii. If, after the declaration of intent, the offense calls a timeout, upon taking the field again, the offense must again declare their intention and the official will provide the defense an opportunity to make any adjustments if necessary.
- iv. The kicking team must align in a typical offensive set
- v. The kicker is allowed to utilize a kicking block to set the ball on
- vi. The center must snap the ball through his/her legs to the holder
- vii. From the moment of the snap, the kicking team has 4 seconds to complete the attempt. The official shall begin their count upon the snap. A failure to attempt the kick within 4 seconds shall be deemed incomplete and the defense will take the ball over at the spot of the hold.
- viii. The defense may try to disrupt the kick by jumping, but may not cross the line of scrimmage. Any player crossing the line of scrimmage shall result in a defensive encroachment penalty of 5 yards and the offense shall receive the benefit of the new spot of the ball. If the spot of the ball does not result in a first down, the offense must declare their intent again as above.
- ix. In division 6, all field goals shall be attempted as “live” play under all normal football rules. The official shall enforce all rules which protect the center

c. PAT (Point After Touchdown)

- i. The ball shall be placed at the 2 ½ yard line for all PAT attempts (one or two point attempts)
- ii. PAT point values
  - 1. PAT kick attempt = 2 points
  - 2. PAT run attempt = 1 point – start at the 5
  - 3. PAT pass attempt = 1 point – start at the 5
- iii. In divisions 2-5 a PAT kick shall be attempted as a “dead ball” play
- iv. In divisions 2-5 a PAT run or pass attempt shall be played as a “live play” under normal football rules
- v. Prior to the attempt, the offensive team must clearly declare to the official and the opposing team of their intention to attempt a one (1) or two (2) point attempt



- vi. If, after the declaration of intent, the offense calls a timeout, upon taking the field again, the offense must again declare their intention and the official will provide the defense an opportunity to make any adjustments if necessary.
  - vii. For a PAT kick attempt, the kicking team must align in a typical offensive set
  - viii. For a PAT kick attempt, the kicker is allowed to utilize a kicking block to set the ball on
  - ix. For a PAT kick attempt, the center must snap the ball through his/her legs to the holder
  - x. For a PAT kick attempt, from the moment of the snap, the kicking team has 4 seconds to complete the attempt. The official shall begin their count upon the snap. A failure to attempt the kick within 4 seconds shall be deemed incomplete.
  - xi. The defense may try to disrupt the kick by jumping, but may not cross the line of scrimmage. Any player crossing the line of scrimmage shall result in a defensive encroachment penalty of half the distance to the goal line and the offense shall receive the benefit of the new spot of the ball. After the new spot, the offense must declare their intent again as above.
  - xii. In division 6, all PAT attempts shall be attempted as "live" play under all normal football rules. The official shall enforce all rules which protect the center.
8. Mouthguards
- a. All players will have their mouthguards in place when the quarterback starts his or her cadence or one second prior to the snap on a silent count.
  - b. Mouthguards may not be red or clear
  - c. Officials will stop play to avoid injuries
  - d. If a violation is found, a five yard delay of game penalty will be assessed.
9. Other optional protective equipment
- a. Helmet visors: Helmet visors are acceptable to use. However, helmet visors may only be clear in color/finish. Any helmet visors that are tinted must be removed.
  - b. Arm, hand or leg pads: players may wear additional padding at their discretion. All additional equipment must fit properly and must not pose any danger to any other player on the field. The head official reserves the right to have a player remove any piece of equipment deemed dangerous to others.
10. Non-football related accessories
- a. Players are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind (rings, necklaces, earrings, facial/oral piercings, or any other body piercings)
  - b. Players are not allowed to wear rubber, plastic, rope/thread bracelets of any kind
  - c. Players may not wear watches
  - d. Players are not allowed to wear any type of cloth that is tied to arms or legs (bandanas, towels or other strips of cloth)



- e. Headbands, skull caps or other head gear: Players may wear head gear under their helmets as long as the item does not impede vision or general safety in any way.

11. Set position clarification

- a. **Offensive (all divisions)**: Offensive lineman, between and including the two tackles, must be set (in a two or three point stance) for one full second prior to the snap of the ball. Once the center touches the ball and a lineman places his hand on the ground, he may not pick his hand up for adjustment. A violation of this rule shall result in a 5 yard illegal formation penalty
- b. **Defense (all divisions)**: Defensive lineman (defined as at or inside the offensive tackle box) must be in a 3 or 4-point stance at the snap of the ball. A violation of this rule will result in a 5 yard offside penalty.
- c. **Defensive linebackers and defensive backs (all divisions)**: linebackers and defensive backs can line up behind the feet of the defensive linemen. Linebackers and defensive backs must remain behind the defensive linemen inside the tackle box. Any player advancing past the defensive linemen inside the tackle box prior to the snap shall result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. If the same player is called for this a second time in the game the player will be disqualified for the remainder of the game and the result of the ejection shall follow the player eligibility rules for subsequent games defined previously.  
***(Players whole body must be behind the feet of the defensive lineman as defined herein)***

12. Defensive blitzing

- a. MSC prohibits the defensive act of blitzing as defined below. A violation of this rule shall result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
- b. A blitz is defined as a defensive player advancing towards the offense prior to the snap towards the “A Gap” (locations between the center and the offensive guards).
- c. The “non-blitzing” zone is defined as a “defensive box”. The box is defined as between the offensive tackles (left and right offensive tackle position) going back into the defense 7 yards. Any player within this defined “box” area, may not advance towards the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball.
- d. The safety position only may advance towards the line up to the 7 yard limit “box area” behind the line of scrimmage prior to the snap.
- e. Players behind the defensive line, inside the tackle box, may move laterally (parallel with the line of scrimmage), but may not move forward.
- f. Upon the offensive snap of the football, the blitzing rules no longer apply and any defensive player may advance towards the offense.

13. Overtime

- a. No games shall result in a tie. Overtime periods will be played until a winner is determined under the following conditions.
- b. Player playing time rules do not apply. Both teams may play their “best 11”.
- c. Offense or defense on the first possession shall be determined by a coin toss. The visiting team shall call the coin toss. The



- team winning the toss has the option of being the first on offense or defense. The team who loses the coin toss shall choose the end of the field to defend
- d. The official shall place the ball at the 10 yard line at the chosen side and normal game rules shall apply
  - e. The first team on offense shall play until they score (touchdown or field goal also including PAT attempt) or they fail on four downs as normal football rules.
  - f. After the initial possession, the ball shall be place back on the 10 yard line for the opposing team to make their attempt under the same rules as above.
  - g. After the first overtime period, the team who has scored the most points shall be declared the winner of the game.
  - h. If both teams score the same amount of points or both teams fail to score (resulting in a continued tie score), a second overtime shall be played and the process shall be repeated with the following exceptions
    - i. The team who started as defense in the first overtime period shall start as the offensive team in the second overtime period. This same change shall occur for all subsequent overtime periods
    - ii. The officials shall place the ball at the 5 yard line for the second and all other subsequent overtime periods.
  - i. One additional time-out is given to each team for the **entire** overtime.
  - j. The defense can return a fumble or interception for a touchdown.
14. Player Ejection from Game
- a. Any conduct deemed unbecoming of or unsafe for a MSC athlete will result in a fifteen-yard penalty on the first offense.
  - b. A second offense shall result in an immediate ejection
  - c. There shall not be any warnings or exceptions provided
15. Spectator Ejection from the game
- a. If an official, coach, parent, player or spectator is being harassed, berated or physically threatened by a spectator, the official has the authority to eject the spectator from that game. This will result in disciplinary action referenced previously
  - b. Upon ejection, the spectator must vacate the facility
  - c. If the spectator does not leave, the official may choose to call the local authorities to have the individual removed and charged with trespassing.
  - d. If the spectator does not leave, if is up to the official's discretion to declare the game a forfeit by the associated team.
16. Heat awareness
- a. During a change of possession, the officials must grant each team a water break if the temperature is excessive (typically above 90 degrees Fahrenheit) on the field.
  - b. Game officials shall follow the MISD heat index guidelines for all game activity

