



2800 Lexington Financial Center
Lexington, Kentucky 40507
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www.kymiddleschoolfootball.com

KENTUCKY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES – 2013

The Kentucky Middle School Football Association (“KYMSFA”) was formed in 2008 to provide an organization through which middle school football coaches could work together with mutual respect and cooperation to improve middle school football in the Commonwealth. The KYMSFA provides a forum for communication, training and educational offerings, establishes a standard set of rules, coordinates a championship playoff structure and provides other benefits requested by the membership.

The Association is a voluntary nonprofit 501 3(c) organization made up of public and private member middle school football programs comprised of credited or accredited public or private middle or elementary school(s) (6th, 7th, or 8th grade) within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The purpose of the Association’s Rules is to provide direction and consistency for its members in the conduct of middle school football in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Rules were initiated in good faith, agreed upon in proper democratic fashion, and only altered with a majority vote by the membership of the KYMSFA. The Rules are not meant to restrict or prevent in any way a member’s participation. They exist solely to have a baseline agreement between the Association’s membership for the conduct of middle school football.

GENERAL RULES

1. All member middle school football programs must register or renew registration for 2013 by completion of the **“online registration form”** and pay dues to the KYMSFA in the amount of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars per year per member football program. Payment of the annual dues shall be made on or before **September 15th** of each year. Failure to pay membership dues by the due date will disqualify such member from participating in the championship playoffs and submission of players for recognition and participation in post-season events.
2. All members agree to abide by a generally accepted code of conduct that reflects the stature and responsibility normally expected of someone placed in charge of the instruction and direction of student athletes and that all coaches/staff have been properly cleared to act on behalf of the respective member. Each principal or Designated Representative shall file with the KYMSFA, all participation lists and all other reports required by the Rules or otherwise requested by the Association.
3. Any discrepancies or challenge of these Rules shall be brought before the President and Championship Coordinator of the KYMSFA for ruling.
4. Members of the KYMSFA must be a certified/accredited public or private middle or elementary school(s) (5th/6th, 7th and/or 8th grade) football program (i.e. no youth league, Pop Warner or similar organization that does not play as a middle school team). Middle or elementary schools that combine to form a middle school football program must present evidence satisfactory to the Board that the football program is recognized and/or supervised by the appropriate school system.
5. All members shall adhere to and honor the summer dead period set-forth in KHSAA Section 3 of Bylaw 26.
6. All members agree to limit the number of regular season games to ten games, plus two scrimmages. Regular season games include a team’s conference games/conference playoffs but do not include the championship playoffs conducted by the KYMSFA. If a member’s conference requires additional game(s) due to the size of the conference or the number of conference playoff games, then an exception must be requested and submitted to the President and Championship Coordinator for approval.



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7. Except for 7 on 7, organized practice in helmets-only shall not begin prior to **July 15**. Organized practice in pads (contact practice) shall not begin prior to **July 22**. Participation in spring practice is up to the member middle school football program.
8. Results of all games/contests of KYMSFA member teams are to be recorded on each team's respective website provided by the KYMSFA and verified on the applicable form to the Championship Coordinator by the required due date for qualification in the championship playoffs.

TEAM/STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

9. Each member shall provide to the KYMSFA a copy of their roster, to be certified by their school's principal/athletic director/high school coach responsible for the middle school football program, before **August 31st** of each season. The roster shall include the player's name, age, date of birth, grade and home/away jersey number. Any change in information (e.g. jersey number; player addition to team due to transfer, etc.) to a verified roster must be submitted to the KYMSFA and made available to any opponent/official prior to game/contest. It the responsibility of each head coach to maintain a certified copy of their team's roster with them during any game/contest and available for review, together with copies of each player's KYMSFA GE Form 4 or KYMSFA Addendum to GE Form 4.
10. Each member shall require that each player have on file evidence of the legal birth date for every player on their roster and to have received a medical examination by a properly authorized medical professional and to have on file a fully completed KYMSFA GE Form 4 (or KYMSFA Addendum if school district requires use of KHSAA GE Form 4) signed by the player's parents/guardian and the medical professional who conducted the medical examination.
11. Players **MUST** attend within the school system the team represents (i.e. no home schooled players) (school system shall include multiple feeder elementary/middle schools that combine to form a recognized middle school football program).
12. Age limit for players are as follows: 8th grade players cannot turn 15 before August 1st of that season; 7th grade players cannot turn 14 before August 1st of that season.
13. Grade limits for players are as follows: Players in 8th grade games are limited to players in the 6th, 7th or 8th grades; players in 7th grade games are limited to players in the 5th, 6th or 7th grades.
14. Each member shall require every school student (grades 5-8) participating in athletics representing a member shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which he or she is currently enrolled and be in compliance with all other Rules in order to be eligible..
15. A student, prior to participation or trying for a place on an athletic team or cheerleading squad shall have in place medical insurance with coverage limit of \$25,000 in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and that insurance shall remain in force throughout participation. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure and certify that each student has insurance coverage throughout the school year.
16. Any coach/football program that falsifies a document, playing an ineligible player, or providing otherwise incorrect information with the purpose of circumventing these rules will be removed from the KYMSFA and their team will forfeit any and all awards/winnings for the applicable season.
17. A substitute GE Form 4 may be permitted to be used upon approval of the President. The purpose of the KYMSFA GE Form 4 is to require a form applicable for middle school athletics.



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TEAM RULES/COACH TRAINING – REQUIREMENTS AND CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS

18. Each member shall require every coach (unless otherwise specified) to have successfully completed the following courses prior to the start of the season:
- i. C.P.R. and AED Training - All middle school coaches (head and assistant) shall successfully complete a C.P.R. course including the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator and the requisite First Aid training, as approved by a college or University, the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other bonafide accrediting agency. Initial certification shall use in-person instruction and certification shall be timely and appropriately updated as required by the approving agency.
 - ii. Coaches Education Program - It is suggested that all Members have at least one coach (preferably the head coach) to have successfully completed the Coaches Education Program approved by the KHSAA as the coaching education program in Kentucky.
 - iii. Sports Safety Training – Each coach (head and assistant, including cheerleading) at all levels (6-8) shall be required to complete a sports safety course consisting of training on how to prevent common injuries.
 - a. The content of the course shall include emergency planning, heat and cold illnesses, emergency recognition, head injuries, neck injuries, facial injuries and the principles of first aid.
 - b. The course shall be taught by a Certified Athletic Trainer, Registered Nurse, Physician or Physician's Assistant licensed to practice in Kentucky.
 - c. The course material and content shall be updated every thirty (30) months.
 - d. Each coach having completed the course shall re-certify by taking the course not less than once every two (2) years.
 - e. Successful completion of the course shall constitute a passing score.
 - f. Each coach (head and assistant, including cheerleading) at all levels (grades 6-8) shall have successfully completed the sports safety course prior to assuming coaching duties.
19. Concussions – Each coach is required to complete training on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion and to otherwise comply with additional requirements/guidelines required by KRS 160.445.
20. It is recommended that coaches familiarize themselves with the Kentucky Medical Association/Kentucky High School Athletic Association Procedure For Avoiding Heat Injury / Illness Through Analysis Of Heat Index And Restructuring Of Activities And Recommendations For Cooling Methods Due To Heat Related Illness which can be viewed at <http://www.khsaa.org/sportsmedicine/heat/kmaheatrecommendation.pdf>.



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21. Coaches Cards – Every member is encouraged to provide all coaches with a coaches' card or to otherwise obtain liability insurance for coaches through www.khsca.org, www.kfca.info, www.nfhs.org or other organization which provides such benefits to its members.

OFFICIALS – CHAIN CREW

22. Only impartial officials licensed with the Officials Division of the KHSAA shall be assigned or employed to officiate in contests between KYMSFA members. The President and/or Championship Coordinator may approve exceptions to this policy in writing. The home team is responsible for any officiating crew and shall provide the names of the officials to the head coach prior to the start of the game. A minimum crew of three is required during the regular season; a minimum crew of four in the championship playoff games and a full five person crew is required for semi-finals and championship games. Any challenge or issue with a referee should be presented to the President and Championship Coordinator for a ruling.
23. Every effort shall be made to provide knowledgeable individuals at least 18 years of age for chain crews in contests between KYMSFA members and comply with the General Instructions For Football Line-To-Gain Crews.

GAME RULES

24. The National Federation of State High School Association Rules shall govern all contests involving member schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the exception of the following:
- i. The official size ball to be used will be a "Youth" sized ball (i.e. TDY, Nike 1205Y, 1000Y, etc.);
 - ii. Length of periods during regular season will be as follows:
 - 8th grade plays 8 minute quarters;
 - 7th grade plays 7 minute quarters, except as agreed upon by the respective head coaches for a particular game.
 - iii. Length of periods during playoffs will be as follows:
 - 8th grade plays 8 minute quarters;
 - 7th grade plays 7 minute quarters, except as otherwise specified by the Championship Coordinator.
 - iv. Referees officiating a KYMSFA game shall require each head coach/team coordinator to affirm that their team complies with the KYMSFA rules and no changes have been made to the roster verified to the KYMSFA.
 - v. A running clock shall commence in any game where the margin of score differential exceeds 35 points at any time in the second half of play.
 - vi. The restriction as to coaches in the coaches box (NFHS Rule 1-2-3 and 9-8-3) during play shall not apply to middle school football games. Middle school coaches shall make every effort to avoid interfering with the official on their side of the field.
 - vii. The excessive celebration rule shall be liberally construed so as to not penalize the reasonable celebration of any given play.



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KENTUCKY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Rules For Qualification/Selection

1. Only members of the KYMSFA, in good standing, are eligible to participate in the Kentucky Middle School Football State Championship. Members must have completed the **on-line Registration Form** to join the Kentucky Middle School Football Association at www.kymiddleschoolfootball.com, paid the required annual dues, and complied with the Rules.
2. Each team must submit its schedule and verified roster on its KYMSFA provided website, included as part of membership fee.
3. KYMSFA member teams will be selected for participation in the State Championship in accordance with the Playoff System voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. For the current year Playoff System, please refer to the **Playoff System PowerPoint Presentation**, including the requirement for teams to play a minimum of 8 games in the 8th grade D1, D2 and D3 to qualify and a minimum of 5 games in 7th grade to qualify.
4. KYMSFA member teams that qualify to be selected for participation in the State Championship must confirm participation in the playoffs as required by the Championship Coordinator.
5. Each KYMSFA member team qualifying and selected for participation in the State Championship will be required to comply with the **State Championship Rules** and the **Participation Checklist(s)** (Playoffs/Semi-Finals/Finals) which will be provided to the team coordinator upon selection.

Rules For Playoff/Quarter Finals/Semi-Finals/Championship

1. If selected to play in the State Championship, a script will be provided to the host team by the KYMSFA for each play-off game which will outline the expected structure and rules for the conduct of the game, including the transmittal of rosters of each team, officials' names and statistics of the game. Rosters will be read during the game, as well as information from sponsors of the State Championship.
2. Home team for the first game will be based off the Playoff System. The home team will make all arrangements for field, as well as appropriate chain crews.
3. Gate at all playoff/quarter final games (excluding semi-final and championship games) will be collected at the home game but split, after reasonable and KYMSFA pre-approved expenses for officials, will be on a 30/30/40 percentage. Each team will receive 30 percent of gate after officials are paid with the Association getting 40 percent. Game results, statistics, gate receipt information, rosters and a list of officials will be provided to each team and to the KYMSFA immediately after conclusion of the game. Funds received by the KYMSFA for the semi-final and championship games shall be allocated by the KYMSFA to fund the State Championship and to support the KYMSFA.
4. Players eligible to play in the State Championship playoffs must have been on the verified team roster during the regular season. All rosters are to be approved according to the Eligibility Rules.
5. A player cannot participate in the State Championship if he/she does not meet the Eligibility Rules. Should a team have such a player on the team he/she is allowed to travel with and support his/her team but can't play in a Playoff, Semi-Final and/or Championship game. Copy of all players birth certificates or completed KYMSFA GE Form 4 must be held on the sideline by the coach in case of a question of age by the opposing coach or the KYMSFA.



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6. All semi-final games and Championship will be played on last weekend in October and/or 1st weekend in November as directed by the KYMSFA Board. State Championship trophies will be provided by the KYMSFA to the 1st/2nd place teams, as well as individual player awards for the Kentucky Middle School Football All-State Team, and as otherwise determined by the KYMSFA Board.

KENTUCKY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL EAST vs. WEST ALL-STAR CLASSIC RULES

Rules For Qualification/Selection

1. **Eighth Grade** - Only members of the KYMSFA, in good standing, may nominate eight grade players to participate in the East vs. West All-Star Classic ("All-Star Classic"). A limit of five (5) players may be nominated by each member. All eight grade players selected to the All-State Team are automatically eligible to participate in the All-Star Classic and are included within the member nomination limit. Nominations by each member are to be submitted using the on-line nomination form on the Association website. All eight grade players selected from the nominations or All-State Team(s) shall confirm intent to participate. The All-Star Classic is limited to fifty players from the East and fifty players from the West. Players nominated but not selected will be placed on an alternative list to be called upon in the event selected players are unable to participate. All alternates are invited to attend the events and be recognized.
2. **Seventh Grade** – Only members of the KYMSFA, in good standing, may nominate seventh grade players to participate in the East vs. West All-Star Classic ("All-Star Classic"). A limit of five (5) players may be nominated by each member. All seventh grade players selected to the All-State Team are automatically eligible to participate in the All-Star Classic and are included within the member nomination limit. Nominations by each member are to be submitted using the on-line nomination form on the Association website. All seventh grade players selected from the nominations or All-State Team(s) shall confirm intent to participate. The All-Star Classic is limited to twenty-five players from the East and twenty-five players from the West. Players nominated but not selected will be placed on an alternative list to be called upon in the event selected players are unable to participate. All alternates are invited to attend the events and be recognized.
3. The All-Star Classic will be held during Thanksgiving weekend. Registration shall begin on Friday, November 29, 2013 at 12:00 noon EST. All participating players are required to complete required paper work, including but not limited to a current physical and consent to participate from the member school.
4. All players from any member of the KYMSFA may participate in the All-Star Classic Combine which will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2013, together with the educational events held during the day and the awards banquet.
5. All coaches of members of the KYMSFA may participate in the coach's clinic and other educational events held during the All-Star Classic weekend.



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KENTUCKY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL NATIONAL EVENTS NOMINATION SUBMISSION

Rules For Nomination/Selection

1. Only members of the KYMSFA, in good standing, may nominate players for possible submission by the KYMSFA for selection to play in national events, including but not limited to the Football University All-American Bowl, the National Tournament, and the Offense/Defense Select Bowl among others ("National Events"). Highlight film is required on any player nominated.
2. Only members of the KYMSFA, in good standing, may nominate coaches for possible submission by the KYMSFA for selection to coach in national events, including but not limited to the Football University All-American Bowl, the National Tournament, and the Offense/Defense Select Bowl among others ("National Events"). Background information is required for any coach nominated.