

LAS CRUCES BANTAM WEIGHT SPORT ASSOCIATION, INC.
TACKLE FOOTBALL PLAYING RULES

High School Federation Rules, adopted by the New Mexico Activities Association, apply, with the following modifications.

I. 5th and 6th Grade Rules

- A. Games are played on an 80 - yard field**
- B. There is no kick-off or point-after kicks**
 - 1. The ball is placed into play at the start of each half and after a touchdown conversions at the “receiving” team’s 25 yards line.**
 - 2. Touchdown conversions are attempted from the 3 yard line.**
 - 3. On a touchdown conversion, the team will be awarded 1 point for a running play into end zone and 2 points for a completed forward pass into the end zone.**
 - 4. When a team scores a safety, they will gain possession at their own 35 yard line.**
- C. 15 yard penalties will be assessed as 10 yards penalties
10 yard and 5 yard penalties will be assessed as 5 yards penalties**
- D. Weight Limits**

Players are weighed with pads, and without helmets

 - 1. 5th Grade League weight limit is 125 pounds**
 - 2. 6th Grade League weight limit is 135 pounds**
 - 3. All players who are over the weight limit MUST be marked with an x on the back of their helmets.**
 - 4. All players who are over the weight limits MUST play on the offensive or defensive line, in a down position (3 or 4 point stance) tackle to tackle. They cannot advance the ball. (This includes a fumble or interception.)**
 - 5. Coaches can only challenge the weight of a player before their game begins.**

II. 7th - Grade Rules

- A. Kicking game**
 - 1. There are no kickoffs - The ball is placed into play at the start of each half and after a touchdown conversions at the “receiving” team’s 30 yard line.**
 - 2. Touchdown conversions are attempted from the 3 yard line.**
 - 3. On a touchdown conversion, the team will be awarded 1 point for a running play into end zone and 2 points for a completed forward pass into the end zone.**
 - 4. THERE IS NO WEIGHT LIMIT**

All teams:

Substitution:

1. Team players must be divided evenly and assigned either to offense or defense. Example: If you have 30 players, 15 players must be assigned to offense and 15 players must be assigned to defense.
2. All defensive player must be marked with a stripe on their helmet.
3. It there are more than 22 players on your team, players must be subbed in, at every down.
Example: when offense is on the field, 11 offensive players will play 1st down, any additional offensive players must play the next down, and so on. (Same substitution applies for defense)
If you have more than 36 players, you can split the substitution into two squads.
Example: You have 18 players each on offense and defense. 11 players will play the first down, 4 players will be subbed in on the next down, and the remaining 3 players will be subbed on the following down and so on.
4. If a team has less than 22 players, only down linemen can play both offense and defense. A player playing a skilled position cannot play on both offense and defense.
5. Substitution rules apply for the first three quarters for 5th and 6th grade. The fourth quarter is open substitution. For 7th grade, substitution rules apply for the first half, the second half is open substitution.
(Players can play on both offense and defense during open substitution)

Lineman (on line of scrimmage)

1. All offensive and defensive lineman, except ends must be in a 3- or 4-point stance.
2. No unbalanced lines.
3. All offensive linemen must be in the “box” with splits of 1-yard or less.

Defensive alignment - Expanded neutral zone

1. Defense is limited to a seven-man “fronts” (down linemen and linebackers) consisting of any combination of seven (7) players (6-1, 5-2, 4-3, 3-4, etc.)
2. No more than seven (7) defensive players can be within three (3) yards of the line of scrimmage at the snap
3. Alignment at coaches’ discretion
4. Defensive front players (including ends) must line up “on” (in front of) line of scrimmage – or “over” (slightly to inside or outside of opposing player)
5. NO STACKING OR STUNTS
6. You may “blitz” at coaches discretion, but subject to Rule B above
7. There will be a 5 yard penalty for violation -- repeated, intentional infractions may be called as unsportsman-like conduct

Punt situations:

On 4th down punt situation you may bring one player from the other side of the ball. (ex: your punter may come from the defense and your return man may come from the offense. If this takes place you must punt no “fakes” if a fake occurs the ball will be down at the previous line of scrimmage.

Mercy Rule:

If, **AFTER SCORING**, a team is still behind more than 21 points, they retain possession of football; the ball is placed on appropriate yard line. At 35 points clock will run.

Sportsmanship:

Las Cruces Bantam Weight Sports Associations football games are designed to be recreational and developmental. Fair play and good sportsmanship is expected by all coaches, players and spectators.

Ejection:

If a coach or player is ejected from a game, he or she cannot participate in the next scheduled game. If he or she is ejected a second time, the player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

School Behavior:

Any student that is suspended from school may not attend practices or participate in games until suspension is served and they are allowed back on school grounds.

Coaches are encouraged to communicate and work closely with school staff to insure that players maintain good behavior at school.

Any behavior deemed inappropriate at practice or games may result in suspension or expulsion from our league. Coaches must notify Board of Directors of any problems immediately.

Eligibility:

Coaches are encouraged to require a 2.0 grade point average from their players. If a player's grade point average is below 2.0, coaches are encouraged to require marked improvement before that player can participate in the next game.