

# SBMSA TACKLE COACHES MEETING

August 4, 2024

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## **Tackle Board Members**

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- Todd Foss (Co-Tackle Director) – [tfoss@cokinoslaw.com](mailto:tfoss@cokinoslaw.com)

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## **Tackle Officials Liaison**

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# **SBMSA**

## **COACHING RESPONSIBILITY CODE**

### **FOOTBALL**

The Football Board would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making the commitment to coaching our youth. The SBMSA is a volunteer organization focused on supporting area youth through athletics. As such, you are a very necessary part of the organization and our youths' development. There are some basic rules of conduct and play that the Association and the Football Board feel needs special emphasis:

#### **HEAD COACH'S**

##### **Player Participation:**

It is your responsibility as a Coach to make sure that ALL of your players meet the minimum play requirements for your division. (SEE RULE BOOK) The Football Board has provided a "Minimum Play Sheet" for each tackle Coach to track the participation of each player at each game. These sheets are the responsibility of the Head Coach and will be used in the case of controversy. As such, it is also the Head Coach's responsibility to submit this signed report after each game. As a courtesy to our statisticians, please also report your game scores on this sheet.

**NOTE:** In order to use discipline as a reason for not meeting the minimum play requirements, you must be prepared to distribute this discipline equally and fairly amongst all players.

#### **HEAD AND ASSISTANT COACHES**

##### **Use of Profanity and Excessive Yelling:**

The use of profanity will not be tolerated. It is also your responsibility as the Head Coach to monitor your Assistant Coaches and Parents. Nobody likes a hothead and excessive yelling can be destructive to the goals we are all trying to achieve. Please be aware of your surroundings and the impact you are making on our youth. BE POSITIVE!

##### **Background Checks:**

The Association will conduct a national background check on each coach. It is imperative that you register online as a volunteer so that this can be done in a timely manner. If you have not received official clearance from the league, you are not eligible to coach or be on the sideline at games.

##### **Approved Coaches (Head and Assistant):**

All Coaches at practices and at games are required to have their coaching cards. Coaching card will only be distributed to coaches that have registered through SBMSA website AND have completed the USA Football Certification. Treat the coaching cards as a sideline pass for games. These cards are required to be visible at all times during games. You will be asked to leave the sidelines without this pass. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to make sure that his assistant coaches are registered and if any of the parents participate in the fundamentals of a practice, they are required to be registered.

## SBMSA Football

### **EXAMPLE Tackle Team Game Monitor Sheet Instructions from Head Coach**

#### Goals of the Game Monitor:

- Your primary goal is to ensure that each player participates in at least 15 plays during each game. The other coaches need your help to make sure this happens, especially during a close game.
- Your second goal is to take the burden of monitoring player participation off of the Head Coach. Let him focus on calling plays and managing the game, rather than worrying about playing time.
- Accurately recording participation and making sure all players meet the minimum 15 plays will help all coaches defend against the occasional parent who may be upset about their kid's playing time.
- Under no circumstances we will ever purposely or even accidentally not play a player the minimum 15 plays unless it is one of the exception noted below.

#### From the Rulebook:

- (1) Each player must participate in at least fifteen (15) plays during each game. A play which is nullified by a penalty after the snap of the ball (i.e., Holding, Pass Interference, etc.) is considered to be a play.
- (2) The only exceptions to the minimum 15 play rule are cases of illness, injury, or disciplinary action by the Head Coach.
- (3) The attached Game Monitor Sheet should be used to record each player's participation, as well as record the score by quarters. The Game Monitor sheet must be signed by both Monitors and your Head Coach, and turned in "TBD".

#### Helpful Tips:

- Know the players' jersey numbers and positions well. That will give you a good idea of who should be on the field at any moment. During the first quarter, you will be checking off 11 guys on every play, so you need to be efficient and not be distracted.
- List the starters and two way players at the top of the monitor sheet, followed by the players you think won't get as much playing time. Some players may get their 15 plays in the first quarter, so you will be done tracking them and can focus on the few that will be more challenged for plays.
- List any injured or otherwise absent player and mark through his row of plays.
- Good communication with the assistant coaches is a must. Let them know who needs more plays and how many. Give the Head Coach a quick update at halftime. When all players have met the minimum, tell all the coaches.
- Get the Head Coach's signature immediately after time expires, and that of opposing team's Game Monitor after players & coaches shake hands. Turn in the sheet.

## Remaining 2024 Important Dates

August 4, 2024	Skills Camp Begins (Tackle & 7on7 Only)
August 4, 2024	Coaches Meeting/Clinic
<b>August 4, 2024</b>	<b>REGISTRATION CLOSES</b>
August 10, 2024	Varsity & JV Skills Assessment & Official Weigh-in
August 10, 2024	Freshman & Sophomore Official Weigh-Ins
August 13, 2024	All Varsity & JV Drafts Completed and Turned into Division Commissioner. Freshman & Sophomore Rosters Released
August 14, 2024	Tackle Practices May Begin
August 16, 2024	Non-Draft Division Team Formation is Complete (Flag / 7on7)
August 17, 2024	Flag & 7on7 Practices May Begin
August 22, 2024	All Divisions Makeup Weigh-in at MMS & SFMS (players trying to make ball carry weight or max weight)
<b>SEASON</b>	
September 7, 2024	Opening Day Celebration
September 15 & 22, 2024	Picture Days (Memorial Middle School)
November 2, 2024	End of Regular Season
November 24, 2024	Championship Games

## THREATENING WEATHER POLICY

1. At the first sound of nearby thunder or any sighting of visible lightning, the coaches and/or umpires shall determine the “flash-to-bang” count (the seconds between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder). When the “flash-to-bang” count is 30 seconds or less, the game or practice must be stopped immediately:
  - If prior to the beginning of a game, the opposing head coaches will make the decision whether to begin play after the storm has ended.
  - After a game starts, the umpire-in-charge will in his/her discretion determine when/whether to suspend play and when/whether to resume play after the storm has ended. If the threatening condition(s) do not clear within a reasonable period of time, the game should be called/suspended and completed at a later date, if possible.
  - If during a practice, the head coach will make the decision whether to resume practice after the storm has ended.
  - In all cases where the game/practice has been stopped due to the “flash-to-bang” count, there shall be a delay of the game/practice of not less than thirty (20) minutes after the last visual sighting of lightning or hearing thunder.
2. Seek shelter in a non-metal building or a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows completely shut and wait for a decision on whether to continue the game or practice.
3. Stay away from metal objects such as fencing and metal bats. Avoid high ground and open spaces. Avoid the dugouts - they are not safe from lightning. Avoid going underneath trees since trees "attract" lightning.
4. If no shelter is available and lightning is striking nearby, you should:
  - Avoid direct contact with other people.
  - Remove all metal objects from your person.
5. If a nearby person is injured from lightning, give first aid procedures if you are qualified to do so. An injured person does not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. Send for help immediately.

## TACKLE GAME EXTREME HOT WEATHER TEMPORARY POLICY

### Considerations to reduce risk factors:

- Head and assistant coaches should review all available resources regarding heat illnesses and prevention including their USA Heads Up Football Certification Course.
- Head coaches will work to educate players and parents regarding proper hydrations in days leading up to games.
- Coaching staff will work to increase the rotation of players to facilitate more rest for each player.
- Coaching staff will utilize the onsite trainers for any assistance with any signs of heat illness of players.
- Coaches are highly recommended to bring ice towels for player relief throughout the game.
- Coaches are highly recommended to utilize all shade before, during halftime, and immediately after game.

### Mandatory Adjustments for Heat Index of 100+\*:

- Halftime will be 10 minutes.
- Between Quarters will be 3 minutes in which players come off the field and remove their helmets.
- In the absence of any scoring, approximately in the middle of each Quarter there will be a 2-minute break in which players come off the field and remove their helmets.
- After all scores, all players will be given adequate time to come off the field for water.
- Water is allowed on injury timeouts (still no coaching).
- Onsite trainer will rotate the various sidelines watching players for any signs of heat illness.
- For Spring Forest Middle School games, all players are allowed to seek shade, which is outside the 20 yards lines (dugouts and end zone tents).

\*The onsite trainer will work with onsite board member(s) to officially notify the refs if the Heat Index reaches 100.

## Directions for Handling Sponsor Money

- I. If sponsors are not interested in a tax deduction, the Sports Association does not need to be involved in the transaction. They can give the money to the coach or pay the vendor directly.
  
- II. If sponsor wants to take a tax deduction for money donated to a non-profit organization:
  1. Coaches should provide each sponsor with the sponsorship form located on the website at [www.sbmsa.org](http://www.sbmsa.org).
  2. The information in the block must be properly filled out before the form is given to the sponsor.
  3. As noted on the form, checks should be made out to the S.B.M.S.A.
  4. Coaches should then collect these sponsor checks, either in person or by mail. This service is provided as a method to have the checks made out to a non-profit organization and then return an Association check to a coach or a vendor. **It is not designed to set up a separate bookkeeping account for each team to draw out funds during the season.**
  5. Therefore, each coach is to keep his sponsor check(s) until he has spent all the money he wants to spend, and then he should submit to: **S.B.M.S.A., P. O. Box 800211, Zip 77280** the entire sponsor check(s) along with receipts, invoices and/or a letter noting a list of uniforms, equipment, etc. he has purchased including costs incurred. *(A tax-exempt certificate is available from the Sports Association – we will not reimburse for sales taxes.)* Multiple checks to vendors or coaches can be made. Some businesses will allow you to pay for uniforms and equipment with cash, credit card or check and not pay tax. Others will require a Sports Association check to pay for non-taxable items.
  6. If coaches do not send receipts or a list of items purchased equal to the amount of the check(s), the excess funds will be deposited as fund raising money for the program. If you do not have receipts, you must submit something in writing signed by the Coach explaining what they funds were or will be used for (Uniforms, Equipment, Team Party, etc..)
  7. When a sponsor check is received in the office a receipt will be issued to that individual or business at the address listed on the check.

## TACKLE UNIFORMS

The Head Coach is responsible for providing the players on his team with a game jersey. The league will provide this game jersey if the Head Coach is unable to secure the funds for the game jersey. The league jerseys are standard mesh jerseys with no names or team names included. Also, if you accept the league provided jersey you also agree that the team will be wearing white practice pants as the game pant.

***If you are going to order league provided uniforms you will need to notify your age level commissioner ASAP and get a Purchase Order Number. These jerseys will be ordered from Gulf Coast Athletic Supply.***

The league suggests that each Head Coach attempt to find local sponsors for his team, but in no circumstances is he allowed to “Assess” the parents of his team for any equipment or uniforms purchased on their behalf. It is acceptable to ask for donation, but it is purely on a volunteer basis.

**TIME IS CRITICAL** - There is approximately 3 weeks between the first practice and the first game. It is highly suggested that each Head Coach begin to make arrangements to order uniforms as early as possible but no later than the day after your first practice.

Another suggested way to do this is to order “plenty” of jerseys (make sure to include some 90’s). The disadvantages of doing it this way are:

1. Kids don't get to pick their numbers
2. The jerseys don't have names on them
3. Possible increased cost due to over ordering

The advantage is that if you know you are coaching, and you do the math, you can place an order way in advance.

The following are some suggestions from former coaches on companies to help with uniforms:

Gulf Coast Athletic Supply – James Lynch	(281) 240-8440
Shooting Star Sports – John Phillips	(713) 321-9689

Each team **WILL** be separately identifiable as far as color schemes go. These are chosen by the coaches but must be approved by the league prior to ordering.