

ATTENTION FOOTBALL SCHOOLS

With the 1997 passage of Proposal #13, a change was made in By-Law 301 and a new By-Law (355) was created. A single football Preseason Inter-School Scrimmage is now permitted.

301.0 DEFINITIONS

- e. Preseason Interschool Football Scrimmage - A football practice event conducted on the Friday or Saturday of Week 8 of the Standardized Calendar involving three or four teams. Play occurs only under partial game conditions as defined in By-Law 350.

The following is permitted under By-Law 355.

355.0 PRESEASON INTER-SCHOOL SCRIMMAGE

- a. Senior high schools only may participate in the preseason inter-school scrimmage.
- b. The preseason inter-school scrimmage shall consist of three or four schools.
- c. The preseason inter-school scrimmage must be under contract with participating schools.
- d. The preseason inter-school scrimmage shall be officiated by MSHSAA-registered officials.
- e. Each participant shall have at least nine (9) individual days of physical conditioning practice prior to participating in the preseason inter-school scrimmage. The 9th day of conditioning practice must occur on a day preceding the day of the event.
- f. No kicking game shall be permitted.
- g. A maximum of three quarters per team with a maximum to 12 offensive plays per quarter shall be allowed.
- h. All game rules shall apply with the exception that coaches may be on the field to provide instruction.
- i. The scrimmage may only be conducted on the Friday or Saturday of Week 7 of the Standardized Calendar.
- j. The admission charge shall be determined by the host school.

Questions and Answers

Question 1: Can Missouri schools invite a team(s) from out of state to participate in a preseason inter-school scrimmage?

Answer: No. Neither may a member school participate in out of state preseason inter-school scrimmage.

Question 2: We only have three schools participating in our preseason scrimmage. Since each team is permitted a maximum of 12 offensive plays per quarter, can the 4th team's allowable plays be utilized by the three participating schools?

Answer: Yes. Each team is restricted to a maximum of 18 offensive plays per quarter against one team. Therefore, if three teams participate, each school is limited to a total of 18 offensive plays against each of the other two participating schools.

Question 3: How is the limit of 12 offensive plays counted?

Answer: All game playing rules are to be followed as if it were a regular contest except no kicking game plays are allowed and coaches may be on the field. If a penalty occurs and the penalty is accepted, the down will be replayed; another snap will be taken, as if the previous play did not occur. In other words, all penalty applications are to be enforced.

Question 4: When may our school hold its preseason scrimmage?

Answer: The preseason scrimmage may only be held on Friday or Saturday of Week 7 of the Standardized Calendar. This fall, those dates are August 20 or 21, 2010.

Question 5: We have a transfer student who has not met the residency standard, and we are appealing his eligibility based on unusual circumstances. However, the Appeals Meeting is scheduled after the allowable date for playing the preseason scrimmage. Can he still participate in the scrimmage since this is a practice and not a regular season contest?

Answer: No. All participants must meet the essential eligibility requirements (ie: residency, academics, and age) in order to participate in the preseason scrimmage.

Question 6: We have two participants who will be returning from a school-approved summer trip and will have eight days of practice on the day before our scheduled preseason scrimmage. Can they practice in the morning of the day of the preseason scrimmage and be eligible to participate that evening in the preseason scrimmage?

Answer: No. Each participant must have nine different practices on nine different days that take place at least the day prior to the day of the contest.

Question 7: If a participant would be ejected for an unsportsmanlike foul, would he have to be withheld from the next contest?

Answer: Yes. The ejected participant must be withheld from the first regular season contest.

Question 8: I wish to play my junior varsity team against the other teams that will be participating in the preseason scrimmage. Do we have 12 offensive and 12 defensive plays against the other teams also?

Answer: No. **The preseason scrimmage is for varsity teams only** and the maximum number of plays is limited to 12 per opponent for a maximum of 36 offensive plays against the three varsity opponents (or 18 per opponent versus two varsity opponents in a three-team scrimmage).