



2021 Bandit Rules



Above all else, we should strive to make these new players' first experience with football a positive one. The following rules and guidelines should help all of us achieve this goal.

Game Format:

- 2 Halfs – 12 offense and 12 defense each half with 48 total plays
- 5 minute half time break
- Drives start on the 40 yard line
 - For plays resulting in a fumble, the next play should start at spot of fumble
 - Plays resulting in a loss should never extend past the 40 yd line

Coaches:

- Coaches must watch and correct their own players who are not following the offensive/defensive rules.
- Rule disputes, disagreements and complaints must be addressed between head coaches of each team.
- 3 Coach maximum on the field for each team and must be 3 yards behind the safety and/or tailback

Offense:

- Offense must line up in a 7 man front with a center, 2 guards, 2 tackles and 2 ends. No unbalanced lines are permitted. Ends should not be split out from the tackles (past normal splits). Backs are fine to be split out and (of course) lined up off of the line of scrimmage.
- No quarterback sneaks are allowed. Quarterback runs are allowed outside the ends.
- Plays are not to be run on a quick or silent snap.
- Bad snaps or fumbles: Plays should be blown dead immediately if the football is fumbled in the backfield (bad snap or **first** handoff). The play should be run from the line without a huddle and **does not** count towards the 12 play count.
- An exception to this rule is a snap that is dropped and very quickly picked up and the play goes off normally.

Defense:

- There are 6 defensive linemen – guards, tackles and ends.
- Interior Defensive linemen must line up head up on the guards and tackles. The defensive end can line up one half a body to the outside of the offensive end, not a full body or 2 bodies outside the offensive end. The end must still engage with the offensive end.
- No defensive player over the center.
- The defense needs to engage the offensive line on every play. Engage means defense should hit the offense with 2 hands on either side of the shoulder pads.
- There are to be no stunts, slants, blitzing or shooting gaps.
- No linebacker, cornerback or safety can cross the line of scrimmage before a handoff is completed.
- Middle linebackers should be 3 yards off the ball.