

Inland Northwest Youth Football and Cheer League
Standard Operating Procedures
Fourth Grade and Under Division

Effective 2021 Fall Season

Date Issued: March 2020

SOP 011b

Revised: Aug 2022

Purpose:

This policy reflects the official rules for the **Fourth Grade and Under** Division, as an 11 on 11 division.

Responsibility:

The INYFC Board of Directors is responsible for enforcing this procedure. The Field Monitor for 4U games will be on the field and looking for violations of these special rules. The officials will enforce violations identified by the field monitor but will not look for such violations.

Definition: None.

INYFC 4th Grade and Under rule clarifications

All local high school game rules apply except the following:

1. **4th Grade and Under non-player rules:**
 - a. **4th Grade and Under** teams may consist of 6 through 10-year olds.
 - b. Coaches may remain on the field for the first 5 games at the option of the League. A maximum of one coach per team is permitted on the field except during kick-offs and punts.

2. **INYFC Clarifications**
 - a. Coaches are on the field to help the kids, not to gain a competitive advantage.
 - b. Coaches must be a minimum of 10 yards back from the Deepest player or official and may not speak after both teams are at the line of scrimmage until after the play is over. This means no telling players it is a run, pass play or which direction the play is going. They may help get the kids positioned if needed, **BUT** are not to move players around for an advantage once they know the offensive set.
 - c. Special Playing Rules include:
 - i. Linebackers must start at least 5 yards back from the line of scrimmage. (and not rush to line of scrimmage until the ball is snapped)
 - ii. No rushing punts, field goals or points after touchdown in **4th Grade and Under**. Once the ball is kicked it becomes a live play.
 - iii. Points after attempts when kicking must be snapped and placed on the ground or on a square black kicking tee (not on an orange kickoff tee)
 - iv. No more than 6 defensive players can be on the line of scrimmage or rush the ball.
 - d. Defensive Players on the line of scrimmage can be in a two, a three- or four-point stance but may not line up over the center. Additionally, the INYFC has decided that there is no lining up in the "A" Gaps (must be heads up on the guards or further out) and the defensive linemen cannot initiate contact with the center until after contacting a guard first. No shooting the "A" Gaps. **Snapper has protection.**

All above specific rules will have penalties as below

 - a. 1st violation will result in a warning, with "offended team's" option to replay the down
 - b. 2nd violation will result in a 5-yard penalty from spot of snap.
 - c. 3rd and continued violation will result in a 15-yard penalty from spot of snap.
 - d. If a coach receives more than 5 violations, there will be an investigation from the League board.

X-men (non-ball carriers): Anytime a non-ball carrier has the ball, it will be a dead ball and ball may not be advanced from spot of possession.