

Policy Category	Operational - Program
Policy Name	CDMFA Equipment & Field Requirements - Tackle Football
Source	Football Canada, Football Alberta, "Canadian Rule Book for Tackle Football", Football Alberta "Equipment Manager 101"
Date	Approved 2023-03
Cross Reference	"Rules and Standards Policy," Home Team Guidelines,

Equipment & Field Requirements - Tackle Football

- The primary rules used by the CDMFA shall be those endorsed by the Canadian Amateur Football Association (Football Canada).
- Clubs and leagues are responsible for complying with the safety standards regarding equipment. These standards are stipulated in the Canadian Amateur Football Rulebook.

1. Football Stadium/Field

1.1. Field and Access

- 1.1.1. Fully marked and lined Imperial Canadian Football Field (see Canadian Amateur Tackle Rule Book) Varies for 6v6 and 9v9 game format.
- 1.1.2. Grass fields are suitable
 - 1.1.2.1. Field Turf/artificial turf surface is preferred for elite Provincial competition and required for National competition
- 1.1.3. Light towers capable of lighting the field for night games (no closer than 15 feet from the sidelines)
- 1.1.4. No obstacles or hazards within 5 yards of the sideline in any direction.
 - 1.1.4.1. Does not include an athletic track that surrounds the field. However, the border used during track events, separating the inside lane from the field would have to be removed prior to use for football.
- 1.1.5. Recommended; fencing to surround the stadium at least eight feet high with access points that meet the local Fire Marshall standards. One point of access would feature a "gate" or way to sell and take tickets for events.
- 1.1.6. Score clock with the ability to show the scores for both teams, time and which quarter. It is recommended the clock be located at the south end of the stadium when possible to reduce glare from the sun.

1.2. Field Specifics (see Canadian Amateur Tackle Rule Book, Rule 1 for complete details)

- 1.2.1. End Zone Markers: Only flexible markers shall be used to prevent injury. The markers shall be soft, flexible, four sided pylons, 4"x4" with an overall height of 18 inches, which may include a two inch space between the bottom of the pylon and the ground, and be orange or red in colour.
- 1.2.2. Goal Post Assembly: For safety reasons, all goal posts must be properly padded with goal post pads meeting manufacturer's specifications. It is the responsibility of the

home team to provide the padding. In the case of a neutral field, the participating teams shall decide which team shall be responsible for padding the goal posts.

1.3. Sideline Access & Layout

1.3.1. During the game, the only persons who may legally occupy any position on the sidelines are; the field officials, the downbox official, the yardstick officials, the timekeeper and the scorekeeper.

1.3.1.1. At the minor level, we do allow for one team photographer at field level.

1.3.1.1.1. They must be on the coaching roster, in order to be insured

1.3.1.1.2. They must not stand on the sidelines, or impede the function of the game/field officials, or they will be asked to leave the field area

1.3.2. During the game, the team bench area may be occupied only by substitute players, and other authorized non-playing personnel of the team, consisting of coaches, doctors, trainers, and equipment personnel, who must remain in close proximity to their bench and must not encroach on the sidelines or playing field when play is in progress.

1.3.2.1. Team bench area

1.3.2.1.1. May have both teams on the same side of the field, or be located on opposite sides of the field (as per The Canadian Amateur Rule Book for Tackle Football)

1.3.2.1.1.1. This may be dependant on the facility's ability to allow for bench location/specification

1.3.2.1.1.2. The Home Team shall decide the configuration and location of the Home Bench

1.3.2.1.2. Shall be located a minimum of 5 yards (5 meters) and a maximum of 10 yards (10 meters) from the sideline

1.3.2.1.3. Shall be enclosed by a line 4 inches (10cm) wide, which is located at least 2 yards (2 meters) minimum, and 5 yards (5 meters) optimum from the sideline, and a line at each end of the bench 5 yards (5 meters) from the end (Refer to field drawings).

1.3.2.2. Occupants of the bench shall remain within the enclosed area, except during legal substitution proceedings, or by express permission of the Referee, in order to keep the sidelines clear. (Subject to penalty)

1.3.2.3. CDMFA Novice Flag & Atom Tackle

1.3.2.3.1. Teams should set up benches between the fields (between the hash marks)

1.4. Field Set-Up (Home Team Responsibility)

1.4.1. Novice Flag

1.4.1.1. Field size approx quarter field (30 yards wide, 45 yards long including 10 yard end zone)

1.4.1.2. Using 1 sideline and end zone of a marketed field - cones are used to mark the other sideline, every 5 yards

1.4.1.3. Up to 4 games will run concurrently on a single regulation field

1.4.2. Atom Tackle

1.4.2.1. Field size approx quarter field (30 yards wide, 45 yards long including 10 yard end zone)

- 1.4.2.2. Using 1 sideline and end zone of a marketed field - cones are used to mark the other sideline, every 5 yards
- 1.4.2.3. Up to 4 games will run concurrently on a single regulation field
- 1.4.3. PeeWee / Bantam 9v9
 - 1.4.3.1. 110 yards long (goal line to goal line) and 50 yards wide
 - 1.4.3.2. End zones are 20 yards by 50 yards
 - 1.4.3.3. Home team will supply approximately 62 small cones and set up one sideline (7.5 yards from the painted sideline), one cone every 5 yards
- 1.4.4. Bantam 12v12
 - 1.4.4.1. Full field as per rule book for Canadian Tackle Football

1.5. Support Structures

- 1.5.1. Minimum of 2 heated dressing/changing rooms that can accommodate 50 players
- 1.5.2. Minimum of 1 heated dressing/changing room for game officials/referees
- 1.5.3. Immediate access to washrooms for all the dressing rooms listed above
- 1.5.4. Washroom access for spectators

1.6. Spectator Seating

- 1.6.1. There should be a fence to separate the spectators from access to the field

1.7. Spotters Box

- 1.7.1. For minor games, it is suggested a heated spotters box is centered at the 55 yard line, recessed back at least 30 feet from the sidelines and the floor of the first level (if there is more than one) of use for the box to be at least 25 feet up from field level and not subject to obstructed views from spectator seating.
- 1.7.2. For Provincial or National games, spotter boxes are required. See Canadian Amateur Football Rulebook for specifications/requirements.

1.8. Other Facility Requirements

- 1.8.1. A concession area is optional, but if the site has one it must be accessible to all the spectators and be subject to inspection from local food preparation and handling regulators.
- 1.8.2. A storage room and/or building maintenance room is also required as part of the dressing/change room area. This room should also contain all field marking and goal post padding plus a full set of sideline sticks.
- 1.8.3. Snow removal must be provided as necessary to ensure the safety of players, coaches, staff and spectators.

2. Ball

- 2.1. The regulation balls of the CDMFA will be
 - 2.1.1. the K2 Football for Atom Level
 - 2.1.2. the Wilson TDJ Football for PeeWee level.
 - 2.1.3. the Wilson TDY Football for Bantams.
 - 2.1.4. the Wilson NCAA/TDS for Midget.
- 2.2. Or other manufacturers meeting the same specifications as above mentioned Wilson Balls.

- 2.2.1. Approved options added May 2022
 - 2.2.1.1. Novice: composite or leather Wilson K2 or Nike Vapour Size 6 or Wilson GST Size PeeWee
 - 2.2.1.2. Atom: composite or leather Wilson K2 or Nike Vapour Size 6 or Wilson GST Size PeeWee
 - 2.2.1.3. PeeWee: composite or leather Wilson TDJ, composite or leather Nike Vapour Size 7, or composite or leather Wilson GST Junior Size
 - 2.2.1.4. Bantam 9v9: composite or leather Wilson TDY, leather or composite Nike Vapour Size 8, or leather or composite Wilson GST Youth Size
 - 2.2.1.5. Bantam 12v12: leather or composite Wilson TDY, leather or composite Nike Vapour size 8, leather or composite Wilson GST Youth Size
- 2.3. Balls may be leather or composite.
- 2.4. The Home Team shall provide a league approved ball or balls for competition. The decision of the Referee shall be final as to the suitability of the ball.
- 2.5. Wet Day Procedure: on wet days it is recommended that at least three balls be available which may be changed at the discretion of the Referee. It is suggested a "ball person" be used to keep the balls as clean and dry as possible.

3. Game Equipment

- 3.1. Unless otherwise indicated, the home team is expected to provide volunteers/personnel to serve as the stick crew and game timer as required.
- 3.2. Novice Flag: Home Team should provide the following
 - 3.2.1. Small cones (15)
 - 3.2.2. Yard marker (bean bag or another cone)
 - 3.2.3. Game ball
- 3.3. Atom Tackle: Home Team should provide the following
 - 3.3.1. Small cones (15)
 - 3.3.2. Yard marker (bean bag or another cone)
 - 3.3.3. Game ball
- 3.4. PeeWee 9v9 The home team is responsible for field set-up;
 - 3.4.1. 62 small collapsible pylons shall be used to set up the new sidelines 8 yards inside the existing sidelines. A pylon will be placed every 5 yards (including the endzones) to mark the 9-a-side sidelines.
 - 3.4.2. Game ball
 - 3.4.3. Goal posts padded
- 3.5. For PeeWee, Bantam 9v9, Bantam 12v12, and Midget the following equipment shall be provided by the "home team" for the use of the minor officials as follows
 - 3.5.1. Distance Chain
 - 3.5.1.1. Two rods shall be connected near the lower end with a chain so that the distance between the rods is exactly 10 yards (10 meters).
 - 3.5.1.2. The rods shall be made of wood or aluminum, at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) high, preferably with a distinctive marking device at the top of each rod.
 - 3.5.2. Downsbox
 - 3.5.2.1. Shall be a wooden or aluminum post, with plates or a box numbered from 1 to 3, with numbers at least 10 inches (25cm) high, and clearly visible to all officials and players.
 - 3.5.3. Timer's Flag
 - 3.5.3.1. Shall be a standard flag, preferably of contrasting colours to make it visible from any part of the field
 - 3.5.4. Stopwatch or Timer's Clock

4. Uniform & Player Equipment

4.1. General

- 4.1.1. No player shall wear equipment of any kind which may injure the opponent. The referee may remove from the game any player who is wearing equipment which, in the Referee's opinion, endangers a participant.
- 4.1.2. The prime responsibility to ensure compliance to the mandatory requirements for uniforms and equipment rests on the Head Coach or his/her designate.
- 4.1.3. The following equipment is mandatory and shall be worn by all players. The equipment shall be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer, and shall not be altered in any way which will decrease the protection of the player.
 - 4.1.3.1. Soft knee pads ½" thick, worn over the knees, and covered by the pants
 - 4.1.3.2. Thigh guards
 - 4.1.3.3. Hip pads with tailbone protector
 - 4.1.3.4. Shoulder pads
 - 4.1.3.5. Mouthguard covering all the upper jaw teeth (see "Mouthguards")
 - 4.1.3.6. Shoes (see specifications listed under "footwear"), or which may provide less fixation to the ground, such as ripple soles, or broomball type shoes, where no cleats are provided.
 - 4.1.3.6.1. No player shall participate in the game without being properly equipped and wearing shoes as specified.
 - 4.1.3.7. Helmet and face guard (see "Helmets")
 - 4.1.3.8. Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and including all back plates and rib protectors must be covered by the pants or the jersey (only exception being a snap in soft foam hip and tail pad system)
- 4.1.4. Adhesive material, grease or any other slippery substance, applied on a player's person or clothing, that affects the ball or an opponent, is illegal
- 4.1.5. Any gloves which have any type of webbing between the digits are illegal
- 4.1.6. All players' numbers must conform to those listed on the score sheet. Players shall retain the same numbers throughout the game, except if permission is given by the Referee. Where a sweater is torn, the Referee shall allow reasonable time for a substitution, but any change in number must be reported to the scorer.
- 4.1.7. It is illegal to tie or knot team jerseys.
- 4.1.8. It is highly recommended that jewelry not be worn during a game.
- 4.1.9. All leggings, long sleeve shirts, or other undergarments (additional clothing layers) must be worn under the uniforms. Hoods on undergarments must be tucked in, under the jersey.

4.2. Helmets

- 4.2.1. Only helmets and facemasks approved by the National Operating Committee on Safety in Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) may be worn by players
- 4.2.2. All visors must be clear, not tinted
- 4.2.3. A player shall be required to wear the helmet while in bounds, subject to penalty
- 4.2.4. No player is allowed to have a helmet communication device installed in their helmet or on their person

4.3. Visors

- 4.3.1. The use of visors is optional.
- 4.3.2. Depending on the player's position and manufacture of helmet, not all helmets are compatible with visors.
- 4.3.3. All visors must be clear, not tinted - no medical exceptions allowed. (Rule1, section11, Article 2 Football Canada Amateur Rulebook)

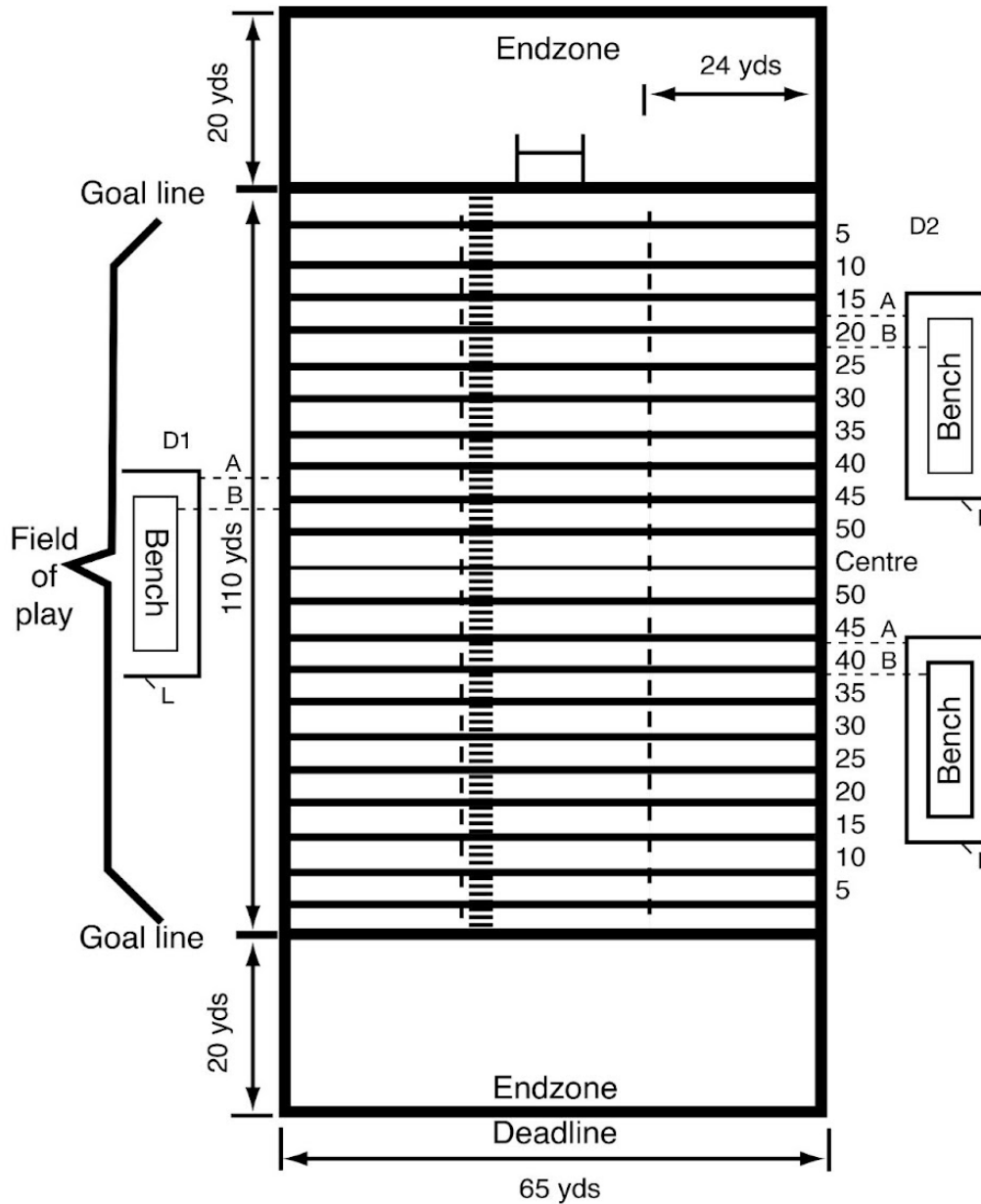
4.4. Mouthguard

- 4.4.1. A player shall wear an intra-oral (within the mouth) mouth and tooth protector, which includes an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and an optional labial (protecting the lips) portion
- 4.4.2. Recommended that the protector be either
 - 4.4.2.1. Constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual's teeth, or
 - 4.4.2.2. Constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing their teeth into the mouth and tooth protector itself.
- 4.4.3. Mouthguard must cover all the upper jaw teeth.
- 4.4.4. It shall be illegal for a player to participate in the game unless the mouthguard is being worn in the proper position by the player. Subject to penalty.
- 4.5. Footwear
 - 4.5.1. For all playing surfaces, a cleated shoe with the following specifications will be accepted.
 - 4.5.1.1. Minimum of 7 cleats per sole (minimum cleat diameter 3/16 inch or 4.8 mm)
 - 4.5.1.2. Additional cleats may be of lesser tip diameter
 - 4.5.1.3. Maximum cleat length of 1/2 inch or 12.7mm
 - 4.5.1.4. A cleat made of metal or with metal tip is illegal (Subject to penalty).

5. Game Day Announcers

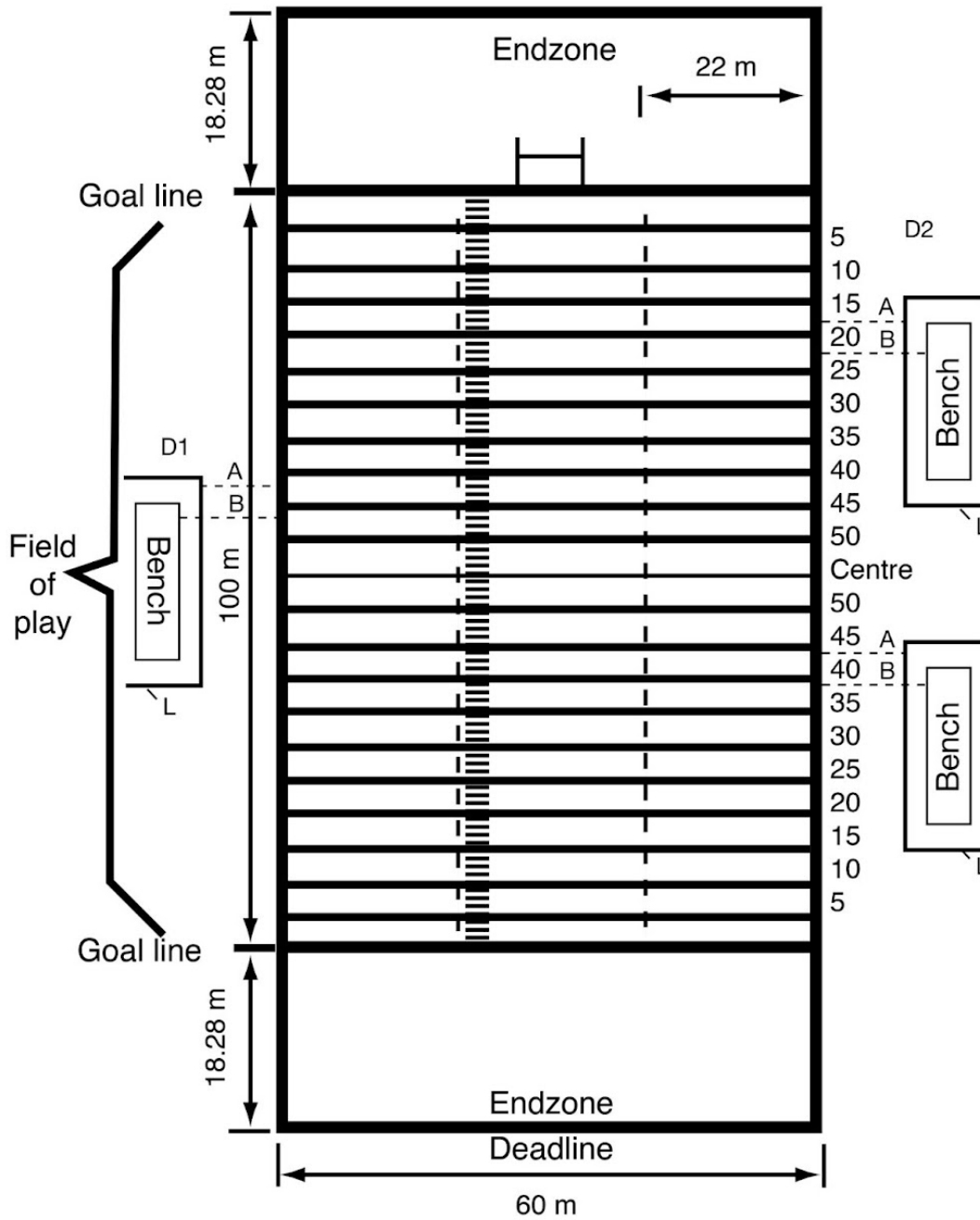
If the game field comes with public address system, the Home Team may provide a PA Announcer provided they are properly instructed for the job (refer to CDMFA Announcers' Resource)

Imperial Field Dimensions and Markings



- Area - A - minimum of 2 yds and optimum 5 yds from sideline
 - B - minimum of 5 yds and optimum 10 yds from sideline
 - L - enclosing line of double thickness (4 inches wide)
- 1 - Optimum location if benches are on each side of field.
 - 2 - Optimum location if benches are on same side of field.

Metric Field Dimensions and Markings



- Bench Area - A - minimum of 2 m and optimum 5 m from sideline
- B - minimum of 5 m and optimum 10 m from sideline
- L - enclosing line of double thickness (10 cm wide)