



Policy Category	Operational - Program
Policy Name	CDMFA Field Requirements - Tackle Football
Source	Football Canada, Football Alberta, "Canadian Rule Book for Tackle Football", OHS Alberta,
Date	2023-03, March 19, 2026
Cross Reference	"Rules and Standards Policy," Home Team Guidelines,

## Field & Facility 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. Field Dimensions and Layout (also refer to diagram at end of this document)

Feature	6-on-6 (U11)	9-on-9 (U13 & U16)	12-on-12 (U16 & U19)	
<b>Field Format</b>	Approx. Quarter Field	Modified Full Field	Full Field	
<b>Field Length (Goal-to-Goal)</b>	35 yards (Goal line to goal line)	110 yards (Goal line to goal line)	Full field as per Amateur Rule Book	
<b>Field Width</b>	30 yards wide	50 yards wide	65 yards wide.	
<b>End Zone Depth</b>	10 yards	15 yards	20 yards	
<b>Game Count</b>	Up to 4 games run concurrently on a single regulation field.	1 game per field.	1 game per field.	



<b>Sideline Marking</b>	Uses 1 painted sideline and end zone; 15 small cones are used to mark the other sideline every 5 yards.	Home team supplies 62 small collapsible pylons to set up the new sidelines 8 yards inside the existing sidelines, one pylon every 5 yards.	Marked and lined as an Imperial Canadian Football Field.	
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## 2. General Field and Support Structure Requirements

- 2.1. **Playing Surface:** Fully marked and lined Imperial Canadian Football Field is required. Grass fields are suitable, but field turf/artificial turf is preferred for elite League & Provincial competition and required for National competition.
- 2.2. **Hazards:** There must be **no obstacles or hazards within 5 yards of the sideline** in any direction, excluding an athletic track surrounding the field (though the track border must be removed).
- 2.3. **Goal Post Assembly:** All goal posts must be **properly padded** with pads meeting manufacturer's specifications for safety reasons.
- 2.4. **End Zone Markers:** Only **flexible markers** shall be used. These must be soft, flexible, four-sided pylons, 4"x4" with an overall height of 18 inches, and be orange or red in colour.
- 2.5. Light towers capable of lighting the field for night games
- 2.6. 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.

## 3. Sideline and Bench Access

- 3.1. **Team Bench Area:** The bench area shall be located a minimum of **5 yards** (5 meters) and a maximum of **10 yards** (10 meters) from the sideline. It must be enclosed by a line 4 inches (10cm) wide, located at least 2 yards (2 meters) minimum and **5 yards** (5 meters) optimum from the sideline. (Refer to attached diagram)
  - 3.1.1. **Occupants:** Only substitute players and authorized non-playing personnel (coaches, doctors, trainers, equipment personnel) may occupy the bench area. They must remain within the enclosed area, or be subject to penalty.
  - 3.1.2. **U9 & U11 Benches:** Teams should set up benches between the fields (between the hash marks) for team & team staff only.
- 3.2. **Field Personnel:** Only the field officials, stick crew, downbox official, timekeeper, and scorekeeper may legally occupy the sidelines. One team photographer may be allowed at field level if they are on the coaching roster, insured, and do not impede game officials.

## 4. Support Rooms:

- 4.1. Dressing / Changing Rooms
  - 4.1.1. Minimum of 2 heated dressing/changing rooms that can accommodate 50 players (preference given to facilities that have 4 change rooms per field)



4.1.2. 1 heated dressing/changing room for game officials/referees are required

4.2. Washrooms & Potable Water

- Access to washrooms and potable (drinking) water are required
  - Accessibility: All washrooms must be accessible to players, officials, and spectators.
  - Basic amenities: They must be stocked with toilet paper, soap, and hand-drying supplies, and have covered waste receptacles.
  - Maintenance: Facilities must be kept clean and sanitary, and operational when needed.
- The number of washrooms required is a function of the OHS guidelines and the Alberta Building Code, based on the number of people on site on any given time
  - Expected if there are more than 100 people, there would be a minimum of six toilets.

**5. Spotters Box**

5.1. 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.

5.2. For CDMFA Playoff Games, Football Alberta Minor Provincial or National games, spotter boxes are required. See Canadian Amateur Football Rulebook for specifications/requirements.

5.3. Announcers

5.3.1. Game Day Announcers

5.3.1.1. 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)

**6. Spectator Seating**

6.1. Spectator seating should be a minimum of 10 yards from the designated field surface

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

**7. Concessions**

7.1. 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.

**8. Snow Removal**

8.1. Snow removal must be provided as necessary to ensure the safety of players, coaches, staff and spectators.

8.1.1. Should be cleared minimum of 30 minutes prior to kick off to allow sufficient warm up

8.1.2. If required during the game, and if equipment and personnel are available, the recommendation is to shovel the goal lines, sidelines so hashmarks are visible, centre field stripe and every 10 yard line from the goal lines



## Field & Facility Requirements To Host CDMFA Sanctioned Events - Tackle

- The CDMFA recognizes the importance of community and the opportunity for its clubs to host games at their 'club facility'
- The CDMFA will work with all clubs to try and facilitate one game/fall season at their 'club facility'

### Regular Season Game at Club Facility

- For hosting a regular season game at your 'club facility' it must have the following amenities:
  - Field with all appropriate field markings (preference given to artificial turf facilities to avoid weather rescheduling)
  - All appropriate goal post assemblies with protective padding
  - Preference for bleacher seating or clearly communicated and monitored that all lawn chairs/seating are a minimum of 10 yards from the sideline
  - Operational score clock
  - Minimum 2 change rooms for teams and field staff
  - 1 change room for officials
  - Running potable drinking water on site
  - Washroom access for all participants and spectators

### Playoff Game at Club Facility

- For hosting a playoff game at your 'club facility' it must have the following amenities:
  - Artificial turf field that meets the field standards outlined in this policy
  - 4 change rooms for teams and field staff
  - 1 change room for officials
  - Training Room
  - Running potable drinking water on site
  - Washroom access for all participants and spectators that meet minimum OHS standards listed in this policy
  - Press Box/Spotters booth required with score clock and PA system
  - Host team to provide all volunteer roles:
    - Game Day Announcer
    - 3 x Stick Crew
    - 1 x Score Clock

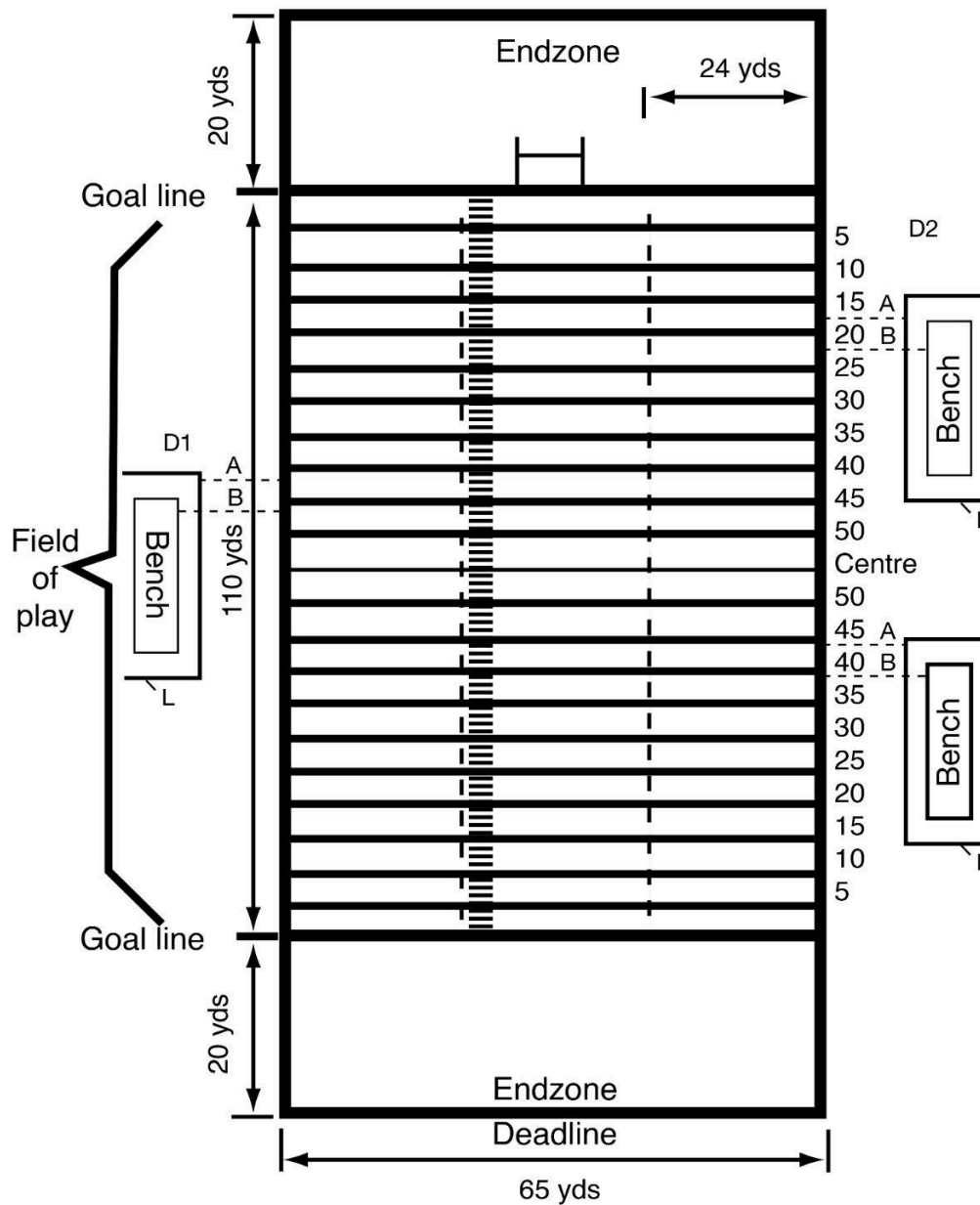
\*CDMFA Championship Weekend will be hosted and managed by CDMFA at venues of CDMFA choice\*

### U11 Hub Facility

- For qualifying as a U11 Hub location at your 'club facility' it must have the following amenities:
  - Artificial turf field that meets the field standards outlined in this policy
  - Cones to line fields according to house rules for U11 6/Side Tackle
  - Running potable drinking water on site
  - Washroom access for all participants and spectators
  - Dressing room access to accommodate athletes, field staff and officials in case of inclement weather or emergency response



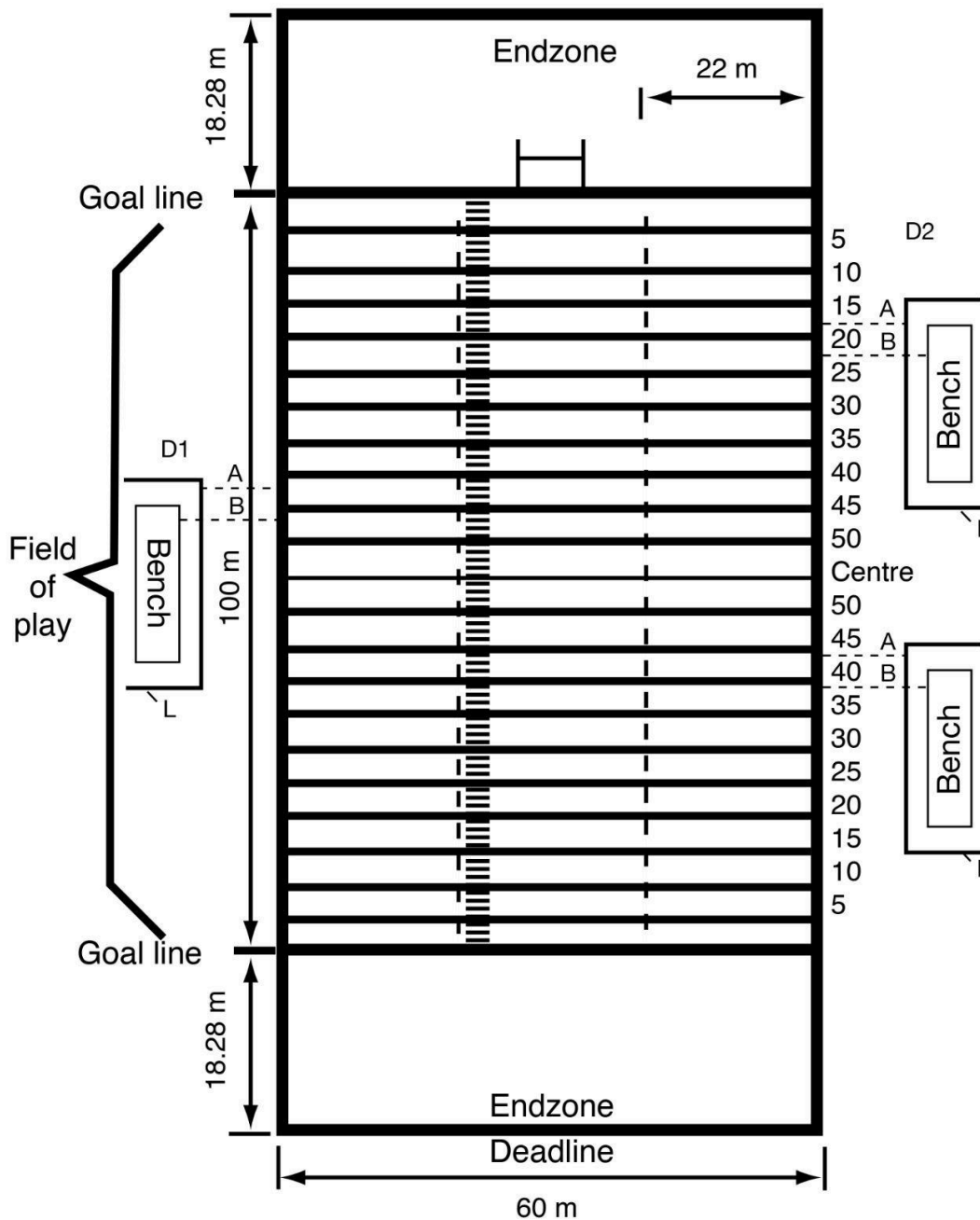
## Imperial Field Dimensions and Markings



- 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)