

OFFICIAL RULES FOR 2026 TRI-STATE GRIP IT & RIP IT PASSING CHAMPIONSHIPS

TIME

All games will be 20 minutes in length with a running clock. A timekeeper will be designated per field. All games will begin on this person's instructions. He will announce the time remaining at the 10, 5, and 2-minute mark.

In case of injury, the timekeeper may stop the clock at their discretion. If that occurs the player(s) must leave the field and see the Trainer. THE PLAYER CANNOT DETERMINE IF HE IS OKAY OR NOT, THAT IS UP TO THE TRAINER.

In addition to the game clock, there will also be a **STRICT** 25-second play clock in effect. Violation will result in a **loss of down**. This will be enforced from the time the previous play is blown dead.

FIELD

The playing field will be 40 yards in length plus a 10-yard end zone.

POSSESSION OF THE BALL- all possessions start at the 40-yard line. No matter where the defense stops the offense, they take over at the 40-yard line. (Unless an unsportsmanlike penalty occurs on 4th down)

PLAY

Offenses can use a center to snap but may not go out for a pass. A snapping tee may be used instead of a center. If you use another skill player to snap, he must be on a knee.

Play begins when the ball is snapped to the quarterback. Plays end with a **ONE**-hand touch below the neck.

The game cannot end on a defensive penalty, unless the offense declines it.

Substituting players is permitted and all regular substitution rules apply.

On Saturday the higher seed has choice of possession with the ball.

RULES OF THE GAME

ALL coaches must remain on the sidelines throughout the contest

No Time-Outs.

No running plays allowed.

Everyone is eligible to receive passes except the center.

Centers will be given a disk cone to spot the ball where the referee tells him. That cone remains, the center of each offensive team is responsible to carry the cone to the next ball spot.

RB's MAY NOT release through the tackle box and be targeted further than 10 yards down field!!!

(SACK)

Passing-The QB has 4.0 seconds (as counted by a stopwatch) to release the ball or it is blown dead, returning the ball to the original line of scrimmage for the next down.

There is no rushing the QB or crossing the line of scrimmage.

7 Defenders (may NOT line up 8 & drop one before the snap)

Double passes are allowed, but the first pass must be backwards.

Offense will have 4 downs to get from the 40 yard line to the 20 yard line, resulting in a first and goal from the 20.

No fumbles, the ball is dead if and when the ball hits the ground, offensive team retains possession.

Player that falls down with possession is down at the spot. **NFL Rules do not apply.**

Interceptions = change possession.

SCORING

Touchdown = 6 points

Interception = 3 Points (No points for an INT on a PAT)

Turnover on Downs = 2 Points

PAT's:

Passing from the 5 yard line = 1 point, Passing from the 10 yard line = 2 points

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OVERTIME:

Friday – No Overtime, if game is tied, the result will be a tie.

Saturday: **Each team gets one play from the 10 Yard Line, Lower Seed gets the option to start on Defense or Offense. There are no points awarded for an interception or a stop. You must score to get points. No extra points after a touchdown. Alternate until a winner is declared.**

PENALTIES

OFFENSE

1. Illegal motion (also defined as illegal procedure) – loss of down.
2. Pass Interference - 10-yard penalty, loss of down.
3. Unsportsmanlike (Includes Blocking or Holding) (player or coach) - Automatic back to the start (40 yard line), loss of down & loss of first down marker, possible ejection (referee and Field Manager discretion). **If it happens on the point after the defensive teams next drive starts first and 10 on the 10.**

DEFENSE

1. Pass Interference & Holding - Nearest first down marker or half the distance to the goal, new set of downs.
2. Unsportsmanlike (Includes Tackling) (Also now defined as excessive contact, player or coach) - Automatic 1st down from 10 yard line, possible ejection (Referee & Field Manager discretion). If it happens inside the 10 yard line it will be 1st and goal from the 1 yard line. If penalty occurs on the point after the ball will be placed on the 5 yard line and will count for 2 points.

NOTE: Any intentional foul WILL result in disqualification from game, tournament, etc.

Disqualifications from the Game & Tournament are the Referee's & Field Manager's discretion.

At the referee's discretion, if excessive contact/shoving is seen the referee holds the right to remove that player for a maximum of two plays. On a second offense that player is disqualified and will result in an excessive contact penalty, see above.

***Any yelling/arguing at Sack Counters or Referees as coaches and you and your team will be automatically eliminated from the tournament, including a possible ban from the tournament in future years.**

Please respect the calls and your opponent. This is a non-contact tournament. It's one hand TOUCH not push.

