

# English Mountain Football Conference

## Rules and Regulations 2010

The purpose of this conference will be to provide organized football for the boys and girls who live in or attend school in Jefferson, Cocke, Sevier, Grainger and Claiborne Counties from 5 to 11 years of age. All conference play will be in accordance with TSSAA Rules except those set forth as Conference rules and regulations specifically. Each community that elects to participate in the English Mountain Football Conference will have one director who can vote on issues and rules that affect the Conference.

\*\*\* The English Mountain Football Conference (EMFC) Board of Directors meetings are open to the public. All parents and concerned citizens are welcome to attend. However the following policy will be in effect:

1. The president of the E.M.F.C. has the authority to clear the room of all spectators and address only the Board of Directors.
2. Only the Director from each of the member communities has the right to vote on issues, however the Director can request input from other concerned individuals if agreed upon by majority of Directors.

### Eligibility Rules

1: Conference play will be in the following divisions: Grasscutter, Supergrasscutter and Pee Wee.

2: To be eligible to participate the child must reside within the county boundaries of Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger and Claiborne Counties or attend school at a public school in one of these counties.

3: If a child meets rule 2 stated above and this child was on a community's late roster from the preceding year, that child must play for the community for which they were registered by the late roster unless they meet the requirements for transfer.

3A: The following are the guidelines for a legal transfer: The child physically changes his address to one of the counties listed above other than the county he is moving from. The child is not eligible to play for a team that was located within the county from which he moved from. Example: ( Child A was on the late roster for a team located in Cocke County for year 2009 . After the late rosters for year 2009 were submitted child A then physically moved to Sevier County. Child A can now participate for any community in Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger and Claiborne Counties for the year 2010, however Child A cannot be a member of the roster for any community in Cocke County for the year 2010).

3B: A child may transfer to any team if they have sat out one year from the date that they were last shown on a late roster from the community that they last participated.

4: A legal birth document must be presented for all new players who are entering the conference for the first time plus any child who is transferring must submit a new copy of his or hers birth certificate. A legal birth document is a certificate of birth with an official state seal, school records, court documents or another document that shows the date of birth. Birth certificates without official seals, school records or other documents need a notarized statement stating that the information is true and correct and signed by the parent or guardian. These documents do not relieve any of the liability of penalty for the community submitting these documents if they are later proven to be false or incorrect. Incorrect documents or false documents can lead to forfeiture of games, fines and affect the eligibility of the child involved. See Division breakdowns for age brackets.

5: At Jamboree each community will submit a copy of their Jamboree Roster in numerical order along with pertinent birth documents plus child's player affidavit. Each team will report to weigh-in station in jerseys provided by their community and short pants. If proper birth documentation, player affidavit and legal jersey are not available for child at Jamboree weigh-in then that child will not be allowed to cross scales, participate in Jamboree and thus will have to attend late weigh-in and follow late weigh-in guidelines. Once documentation has been approved each child will have his or her picture taken and then proceed to scales. Once the official weight is recorded then this will be the official weight for the child for the remainder of the season. The weight of the child at weigh-in determines which positions he or she is eligible to play. See Division breakdowns. The roster submitted by the communities will contain the following information: Child's name as shown on birth document, birth date, physical address with street, city and zip, school they attend if home schooled just note home schooled. The Jamboree Roster will have weight classification added by conference. The Jamboree Roster is good for one week until the final roster is submitted one week from Jamboree. The late weigh-in is for children who do not attend Jamboree. All players who attend late weigh-in must have birth documentation, player affidavit, have jersey from community with short pants and must have coach attend the late weigh-in along with director. Any child attending late weigh-in and no coach is present then that community will be fined \$50.00 per child. If child does not have proper birth documents, player affidavit or proper game jersey they will not be weighed and thus not eligible to participate unless special circumstances exist and then the league president will consult with directors to determine player's status. A player who is added to the roster via late weigh-in must sit out the first game and cannot be on the sideline of the first game. The final roster will contain child's name as listed on birth document, street address, city, zip, school plus official weight. The late roster must be submitted in numerical order. The maximum number allowed on the roster is 35 players unless a team's roster is going to exceed 35 players due to the number of returning players plus the number of players who are moving up will exceed 35 then the roster can be expanded to accommodate

these players only. The conference does not dictate who the legal players are that are added to a community roster, however if a roster is full and the roster contains both new players that are transfers or first year players plus returning players and the community decides not to add players who participated for the community the following year these players are not free agents and thus if not placed on the roster from previous year then they will have to sit out or become a legal transfer by moving to a different county.

**6: If the information provided on the roster is incorrect then the eligibility of the player can be in jeopardy and forfeiture of games may occur for which the ineligible player was active on the roster.**

**7: All players must have official weight and attend either jamboree weigh-in or late weigh-in to be eligible, however a child may be added to the roster after a special weigh-in if the child was unable to attend either weigh-in due to grave circumstances. This is up to league president and a majority vote by the league directors.**

### Divisions

#### Grasscutter

**1:** To be eligible for the Grasscutter division, the child must have reached his or her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and not his or her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

**2:** A Grasscutter player that exceeds **70.5 pounds** without equipment is not eligible for an offensive backfield position. He cannot take a direct handoff or advance the ball behind the line of scrimmage as an offensive player. This player must line up on the line of scrimmage except that in a punting situation, field goal or extra point attempt that is to be kicked an overweight player may line up in the backfield as a kicker and must try to kick the ball. At no time can an overweight player who lines up in the backfield as a punter or kicker attempt to run or pass the ball. If the ball is not kicked then the ball must be downed. There are no fake punt plays or fake field goals or fake extra points allowed with an overweight player in the backfield.

**3:** A Grasscutter player that exceeds **70.5 pounds** without equipment must line up on the line of scrimmage on defense.

**4:** Any defensive player who recovers a fumble or intercepts a pass may advance the football according to TSSAA Rules.

**5:** A Grasscutter player that exceeds **70.5 pounds** without equipment that lines up on the line of scrimmage is eligible for a forward pass as long as the pass is thrown past the line of scrimmage and the player who catches the pass is a legal receiver as per TSSAA Rules.

**6:** A Grasscutter player that exceeds **70.5 pounds** can pull or pass block behind the line of scrimmage.

**7:** A Grasscutter player that weighs less than **70.5** pounds can line up at any legal position as per TSSAA Rules.

**8:** A Grasscutter player that exceeds **70.5** pounds cannot advance a kickoff.

**9:** All overweight players will be required to wear a sticker that designates the player as an overweight player. Failure to have this sticker can result in a fine for the community.

### **Supergrasscutters**

**1:** To be eligible for the Supergrasscutter division, the child must not have reached his or her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

**2:** A Supergrasscutter player that exceeds **100.5 pounds** without equipment is not eligible for an offensive backfield position. He cannot take a direct handoff or advance the ball behind the line of scrimmage as an offensive player. This player must line up on the line of scrimmage except that in a punting situation, field goal or extra point attempt that is to be kicked an overweight player may line up in the backfield as a kicker and must try to kick the ball. At no time can an overweight player who lines up in the backfield as a punter or kicker attempt to run or pass the ball. If the ball is not kicked then the ball must be downed. There are no fake punt plays or fake field goals or fake extra points allowed with an overweight player in the backfield.

**3:** A Supergrasscutter player that exceeds **100.5 pounds** without equipment must line up on the line of scrimmage on defense.

**4:** Any defensive player who recovers a fumble or intercepts a pass may advance the football according to TSSAA Rules.

**5:** A Supergrasscutter player that exceeds **100.5 pounds** without equipment that lines up on the line of scrimmage is eligible for a forward pass as long as the pass is thrown past the line of scrimmage and the player who catches the pass is a legal receiver as per TSSAA Rules.

**6:** A Supergrasscutter player that exceeds **100.5 pounds** can pull or pass block behind the line of scrimmage.

**7:** A Supergrasscutter player that weighs less than **100.5 pounds** can line up at any legal position as per TSSAA Rules.

**8:** A Supergrasscutter that exceeds **100.5** pounds cannot advance a kickoff.

**9:** All overweight players will be required to wear a sticker that designates the player as an overweight player. Failure to have this sticker can result in a fine for the community.

## Peewees

- 1:** To be eligible for the Peewee division, the child must not have reached his or her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- 2:** A Peewee player that exceeds **120.5 pounds** without equipment is not eligible for an offensive backfield position. He cannot take a direct handoff or advance the ball behind the line of scrimmage as an offensive player. This player must line up on the line of scrimmage except that in a punting situation, field goal or extra point attempt that is to be kicked an overweight player may line up in the backfield as a kicker and must try to kick the ball. At no time can an overweight player who lines up in the backfield as a punter or kicker attempt to run or pass the ball. If the ball is not kicked then the ball must be downed. There are no fake punt plays or fake field goals or fake extra points allowed with an overweight player in the backfield.
- 3:** A Peewee player that exceeds **120.5 pounds** without equipment must line up on the line of scrimmage on defense.
- 4:** Any defensive player who recovers a fumble or intercepts a pass may advance the football according to TSSAA Rules.
- 5:** A Peewee player that exceeds **120.5 pounds** without equipment that lines up on the line of scrimmage is eligible for a forward pass as long as the pass is thrown past the line of scrimmage and the player who catches the pass is a legal receiver as per TSSAA Rules.
- 6:** A Peewee player that exceeds **120.5 pounds** can pull or pass block behind the line of scrimmage.
- 7:** A Peewee player that weighs less than **120.5 pounds** can line up at any legal position as per TSSAA Rules.
- 8:** A Peewee player that exceeds **120.5 pounds** cannot advance a kickoff.
- 9:** All overweight players will be required to wear a sticker that designates the player as an overweight player. Failure to have this sticker can result in a fine for the community.

## Special Rules

- 1:** If both teams have similar colors, it is the home team's responsibility to provide a jersey that does not conflict with the visiting team. If there is going to be a conflict with colors, the conference requires that the conflict be resolved when the schedule is voted on by the Directors. The offending team will be fined \$500.00.

**2:** If a player changes jersey #'s during the season his director must notify the opposing Director before game time. Have a Jersey Change Form filled out and signed by both directors and coaches plus a witness. The change of Jersey Form must then be presented to the conference secretary before the next scheduled game along with a Polaroid of the player in his new jersey. Failure to provide conference with this information could lead to later forfeitures and fines. Jersey Change forms are available from conference and are on conference web site.

**3:** The scheduling for all conference games will be done by the scheduling committee as appointed by the President and based upon the conference division breakdowns as voted on by majority of directors.

**4:** All conference games are to be scheduled for Saturdays, however if inclement weather or special circumstances require the rescheduling of a game then it is up to the home field director to notify league officers so that the game can be rescheduled. Priority of scheduling is the following Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. If games cannot be rescheduled on these dates then the scheduling committee will determine a new date. NOTE: If inclement weather occurs during the game it is up to the officials to postpone or cancel the game. If the home team's facilities are not playable before the game starts the home field director is to notify the conference president so that the game officials can be notified.

**5:** Eight minute quarters will be played in all games with twelve minute halves

**6:** All games that are tied at the end of regulation will be determined by TSSAA Rules.

**7:** Official footballs shall be Grasscutter and Supergrasscutter (Wilson K2) and Pee wee (Wilson TDJ) "Official Triple Lined" or of equal size.

**8: Only Pnuema type shoes will be allowed(Tennis shoes or sneakers may be used). No screw in cleats or metal tipped cleats will be allowed. If a player is caught wearing any show other than regulation, they will be suspended immediately from the game and the following game. The same applies to the Head Coach of the team in violation.**

**9:** Extra point attempts if kicked then two points are awarded, if run in or passed in from scrimmage then 1 point is awarded. All other rules pertaining to extra points will be in accordance with TSSAA Rules: Note: If an overweight player is in the backfield to punt or kick an extra point or field goal refer to overweight rules for each division.

**10: Grasscutter Punt Rule:** In the grasscutter division the offensive team can either line up and execute a punt or take the punt option which is a 15 yard mark off from the line of scrimmage. If the punt option is taken the ball cannot have passed the 49 yard line of the offensive team. (Example: Team A has the ball which is located on their own 45 yard line, they run a play which advances the ball over the 50 to the defensive teams 46, the next play they lose 7 yards, the

offensive team decides to punt they are not allowed to use the punt option since they have crossed their own 49 yard line.)

**11:** Use of an overweight player who advances the ball from an illegal position or lines up in an illegal position or a defensive overweight player who lines up in the wrong position after the snap of the ball is subject to a protest. If this occurs and the opposing coach sees the incident it is the responsibility of this coach to inform the referee by calling a time out. The team will not be charged a timeout. The coach then informs the referee that an overweight player has played out of position. The referee then will confer with the other referees and if they are in agreement they will then inform the opposing coach that they have been notified by the other coach regarding the incident and they concur. The coach of the team that has had the out of position player has two options either bring the play back or continue to play. If he continues to play then the reporting coach can officially protest the game by telling the officials that they are protesting. The game will continue under protest and once the game is completed if the protesting team loses they will file their protest with the conference no later than 48 hours of occurrence. If the conference finds that the situation occurred then the team in violation will forfeit the game. If the referees did not see the play then there can be no protest of this situation. The reporting coach also has an option in that if the resulting play ends up as a loss he can request that the ball be placed where the ball was officially ruled down and with the down counting as a play. See following rule for protest procedures.

**12: Protests.** The conference discourages protests however in order to promote fair play they are necessary. The following are situations where the conference will consider protests, an illegal player on a roster, use of an overweight player who participated in a play as stated in rule 11 above. The following cannot be protested, a judgment call by the officials or TSSAA rules. The protest procedure is as follows the director of the protesting team will have a written or typed document explaining the protest plus the remedy they expect to settle the protest. This document is then to be given to a conference officer with a check made out to the EMFC in the amount of \$200.00. If the protest is in regards to a game incident then this must be completed within 48 hours of the incidence. The conference president will then look at the document and make a determination if the protest is valid and then proceed to set a meeting of the directors to determine the outcome of the protest. If the protesting team wins the protest they are returned there \$200.00. If they lose the protest the \$200.00 is forfeited.

**13:** Parents often request that their child be allowed to play up in a division, the conference does not promote this , however if the parents persist the conference requires a statement stating that the parent understands the situation and that once the child moves up in a division they cannot move back down. This statement must be presented by community director and notarized. The document will then be placed in the archives.

**14:** If a child participates for three days in a program that is an upper division other than the peewee division then that player is not eligible to play in the peewee division: Example: A child practices with a middle school age division for three days then they are not eligible to participate in the EMFC.

**15:** If a new community is formed and allowed to join the EMFC, the new team will be granted a one year period of free agency to fill their team roster.

**16:** In the past there have been communities that had multiple teams in each division. When these communities have then decided to fold some of their teams then the players from the folded teams will not become free agents and are not allowed to transfer to other communities unless the following occur. Said players may sit out one year or player moves to another county.

**17:** If a whole community folds then all the players who were on their roster from the previous year will become free agents and be allowed to transfer to any other community in the conference.

**18:** The price of admission for jamboree, conference games and playoff games is set at the following \$4.00 for adults or any one over age 18 and \$1.00 for children under the age of 18. These gate prices cannot be raised without conference OK.

**19:** At jamboree everyone pays admission except players in uniform and cheerleaders in uniform.

**20:** If a community is not represented in two consecutive EMFC called meetings then that community forfeits all rights of representation for one meeting.

**21:** The directors plus head coaches can meet with the officials to resolve possible protest situations

**22:** The Conference and directors will vote each year to make arrangements for officials. No community can provide officials for EMFC games.

**23:** **Spring Practice for the year 2011 can start at March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. You have 15 consecutive days to get 10 days of practice in.**

**24:** Any unethical matters that arise during the season that are contrary to the policy or ideas of the EMFC will be judged on their merits. Any coach who is ejected from a game will be suspended the following game. Anytime a coach or player is ejected the head official will make a report to the head of the officials association who will then notify a conference officer within 48 hours of the ejection. A conference officer then will notify the community director for the coach or player involved regarding the ejection.

**25:** The conference reserves the right to call a special meeting over an ejection if the incidence is deemed worthy of further action.

26: Any coach who is ejected and refuses to leave the area of gate of entry, returns to the gate of entry before the completion of the game, or attempts to communicate with his team in any way will be suspended indefinitely pending an appeal before the board of directors.

27: Any person who physically attacks or verbally threatens to attack a conference official, referee or coach will be subject to the following. If the person is a player the player is suspended for the remainder of the season, and the entire next season pending an appeal to the conference board of directors. If the person is a coach the coach is suspended indefinitely and the team will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season pending appeal before the conference board of directors.

28: Multiple ejections will result in multiple suspensions with the possibility of the suspension being permanent.

29: The EMFC Board of Directors meetings are open to the public, however the community director is the spokesperson for the community, however the director can ask for permission for others to speak if deemed pertinent by the conference president. The president has the right to clear the meeting at any time if deemed necessary.

30: If a problem arises between The EMFC and the Officials Association then the president of the Officials Association will notify the conference president in writing of the problem and what the Association desires. The conference president will then call a meeting of the board of directors at which time the president of the officials association will present the problem to the directors for action.

31: A team may have 6 coaches and 2 managers. The coaches and managers will be named on the teams roster. If a coaching change is made during the year then the game pass for the coach who is to be removed from the roster must be returned to the conference before a new pass is issued for new coach. Each coach or manager listed on a team's roster will be issued a pass that allows free entry to games that their teams are participating in, except Jamboree where everyone pays.

32: All coaches, managers and players must remain between the 25 yard line markers. Only six coaches and 2 managers are allowed on the sideline and the coaches and managers must be listed on the team's roster.

33: The community director has the authority to be anywhere inside the gate in order to address a problem if one arises.

34: Each community will have some type of Emergency Medical services plus a uniformed security person present at the start of the first game and have these in place for all games.

35: Three passes will be issued to the community director to pass out to service providers in their community.

36: The entry fee for all communities is \$100.00 for Football and \$100.00 for cheerleading payable at Jamboree. Make checks to EMFC for football and EMCC for cheerleading. The fees are to be turned in to the treasurer who will make note in treasurer's records.

37: All teams that qualify for the play-offs will play in the play-offs unless on probation.

38: The 2010 Jamboree will be held at Sevier County High School and Sevierville is the host. See attached schedule for other dates and events.

39: The hosts for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the playoff games will keep all proceeds from the gate.

40: The gate at super bowl and jamboree will be split between the host community and the conference. At the super bowl the gate split will be based upon total gate less payment to officials with remainder split between host and conference. The hosts at super bowl and jamboree will need to make gate purse payments to conference with check.

41: **Special Grasscutter Coaches Rule:** If both coaches agree then a one coach for each team may be allowed on the field while play is occurring. The offensive coach can be in the huddle and call the play, however when the huddle is broken he can have no further involvement or communication with his players until the ball is snapped. The defensive coach can communicate with his team until the offensive team comes set at which time he must place himself at least 10 yards behind his deepest defender. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalty for guilty party. If both coaches are not in mutual agreement for coaches to be allowed on the field then no coach is allowed on the field. If both coaches agree before the game to allow a field coach and one team does not use one they will not be allowed to use one later on in the game. The agreement must be in front of the head official.

See attachments for 2010 Divisions, 2010 Schedule, 2010 Jamboree Schedule, Player Affidavit Form, Jersey Change Form and Directors contact information.