

Questions, Answers, and Facts about:

8 Man Tackle Football

What is 8 man football, I've never heard of it?

Eight-man football is a type of American football, generally played by small high schools. As of 2008 schools in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington had eight man football. Even now in Florida there is an 8 man youth football organization in Deland, Fl.

Are the Rules similar to eleven man tackle?

Rules vary among different organizations, for the most part the rules are very much the same. The game is still played under NFHA (National Federation of State High Schools) standards, the one constant is eight players from each team on the field at one time, as opposed to eleven.

What are the most noticeable difference between 8 and 11 man Football?

Several differences distinguish eight-man football from eleven-man football, most notably the elimination of three players. It depends greatly on the type of formation used, but the eliminated players are commonly two offensive tackles and a wide receiver on offense and two defensive backs and a defensive lineman on defense. The size of the playing field is often smaller in eight-man football than in eleven-man football. Some states opt for a smaller, 80 yards long by 40 yards wide field (which is the size being used by PBPW).

What is Game play like?

In terms of game play, eight-man football is quite different from its eleven-man counterpart. Due to a smaller field and fewer players, the tempo of the game is noticeably faster-paced. Scores tend to be higher. Especially in the older divisions, a higher percentage of plays are trick plays - direct snaps, and Wildcat formation plays.

Are Offensive Formation similar to eleven man?

Variety of offensive play in eight-man football is significantly reduced due to the decrease in options resulting from fewer players. Formations usually require three players in the backfield (a quarterback and two running backs) and five on the line of scrimmage. The interior of the line consists of two guards and a center. Most often, the line players on the edges of the formation are tight ends, or are occasionally split wide as wide receivers.

Formations vary widely between schools and states, but commonly include the I formation and the T formation (sometimes referred to as "pro set"). Common plays include the counter, dive, option and sweep. Passing is usually not as common in eight-man as it is in the eleven-man game because of the speed of the game.

What about Defense?

General defensive alignments in eight-man football consist of defensive linemen, linebackers, and defensive backs. The most common formation is a 3-3-2, in which three defensive linemen (usually a nose tackle and two defensive ends) line up in a "down" position, with three linebackers standing behind, either stacked over the down linemen, lined up on the inside shoulder of the linemen, or on the outside shoulder of the linemen. Two defensive backs have coverage responsibilities, either with deep halves or man-to-man with the offense's receivers. Alternate formations include 4-3-1 (linemen-linebacker-safety), 3-4-1, 4-2-2, 3-2-3 and 5-3 among others.

Why 8 Man Tackle football in the Spring vs. other spring alternatives

We have found that youth football programs that experience continued, consistent success in their Programs either offer or encourage their youth to participate in an 8 man tackle program in the spring. It not only keeps their athletes in fantastic physical shape, but it also keeps the athlete in great football shape by continuing to learn and demonstrating the same fundamentals and skills needed for high school and college level of performance. Most H.S. coaches prefer it over or in connection with other sports like track and field because it gives their future prospects a competitive advantage in the Fall. Rather than undoing and re-coaching bad tackle football habits that are learned in other spring alternatives, 8 man tackle reinforces sound football discipline, even in the spring. This optimizes the athlete, giving them the best opportunity to be at their best in the fall.

What is covered in the *Registration Fee*?

Registration fee covers helmet, shoulder pads and game pants and jersey rental.
Insurance, referee and field usage cost for practice and game day

Where will practice be held?

Fred Lee Park on North Emerson Dr. in Palm Bay, Florida

How long are practice and how frequent?

Four days a week from start of season until first game (3 weeks), after 1st game - 2 days a week until season end.
Max. 2 hrs per day.

Where are games played?

Palm Bay High School - 101 Pirate Lane.