

**2009-2010
OUA FOOTBALL - MEN
Rules and Regulations
Updated July 2009**

1. NAME

1.1 This league shall be called the OUA Football Conference.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the Conference shall be to encourage high-level performance in interuniversity football, to supervise and control interuniversity football participation within the Conference and to stimulate and promote a positive attitude towards sport and sportsmanship.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 **The members of this conference are:**

University of Guelph	McMaster University
University of Ottawa	Queen's University
University of Toronto	University of Waterloo
University of Western Ontario	Wilfrid Laurier University
University of Windsor	York University

And such other OUA institutions as may be elected to membership from time to time as per constitution articles regarding declaration of sport participation.

4. AWARDS

4.1 The annual OUA Final Champion shall receive the YATES CUP.

4.1.2 The annual OUA Final Champion shall receive the OUA Banner.

4.1.3 **The OUA Most Valuable Player Trophy** - awarded annually to the Most Valuable Player in the OUA League. The award is to be presented at the OUA Media Conference.

4.1.4 **The Presidents' Trophy** - awarded annually to the Outstanding Standup Defensive Player in OUA Football.

4.1.5 **The J.P. Metras Trophy** - awarded annually to the Outstanding Lineman in OUA Football.

4.1.6 **The Norm Marshall Trophy** - awarded annually to the Most Outstanding Rookie in OUA Football.
Note: Only those individuals who come directly from high school or CEGEP to a maximum of 21 years of age as of September 1st of 1st year of CIS eligibility.

4.1.7 **The OUA Russ Jackson Nominee** – awarded annually to the best player who represents the OUA football community on the field, in the classroom and within the community.

4.1.8 **The David "Tuffy" Knight Award** – awarded annually to the OUA Coach of the Year. [Amended July 2009]

4.1.9 **The Dalt White Award** - awarded annually to the Most Valuable Player in the Yates Cup Championship final.

Changes from last year are highlighted.

4.1.10 **OUA Volunteer Coach of the Year Award** – awarded annually to a volunteer coach who is currently active and the program and not a full time employee of the University. The recipient shall be dedicated to the student-athletes, professional, part of the development of the team and have served many years on the team. [Added July 2009]

4.1.11 **Officials Award of Merit** – awarded annually to an OUA Official who has officiated 5 or more games during the football season. The official must be dedicated to excellence, exhibit professionalism and passion, and be a strong advocate of OUA football. [Added July 2009]

4.1.12 Balloting for the OUA Most Valuable Player, President’s Trophy, Norm Marshall, J.P. Metras Trophy, Russ Jackson Nominee, and OUA Coach of the Year awards shall be the responsibility of the Convenor.

4.1.13 Gold Medals shall be awarded to each member of the Championship Team.

4.1.14 Silver medals shall be awarded to each member of the Yates Cup finalist runner-up.

5. COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

5.1 Design of Competition:

Competition shall be among ten teams:

Guelph, McMaster, Ottawa, Queen’s, Toronto, Waterloo, Western, Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor, York

5.2 Schedule:

One game against 8 of 9 opponents with the non-combatant opponent being rotated on an annual basis.

5.2.1 The opening game of the season can be played on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday of the Labour Day Weekend as determined by the host.

5.2.2 The OUA Football Schedule will be released on December 9 on an annual basis.

5.3 Playoffs:

6 teams make play-offs.

Quarter-finals:

First and second place earn bye to semi-final

Game 1: 6th place will play at home of 3rd place.

Game 2: 5th place will play at home of 4th place.

Semi-Finals:

Lowest remaining seed @ #1

Next remaining seed @ #2

YATES CUP:

The two winners of semi-final games will play at the home of the higher placed team for the championship or a site agreed upon when the OUA takes on the organization of the championship game.

The Yates Cup Championship team shall proceed to the CIS Semi-final Bowl Game.

5.4 **Ties** - Ties at the end of the regular schedule affecting first place standing shall be resolved by the formula set out in the OUA General Playing Regulations.

6. RULES & REGULATIONS

Changes from last year are **highlighted**

6.1 The Canadian Rule Book for Tackle Football published by Football Canada shall be used as the official rule book of Ontario Universities Athletics.

6.1.2 Exceptions to the Rules

6.1.2.1 Overtime Format (**turnover**):

6.1.2.2 In the event of a turnover, the ball remains alive until it is declared dead. However, the team on offence may not have a first and 10 if it regains possession of the ball after a change of team possession.

***Example:** Team A turns the ball over to Team B which returns the ball toward Team A's goal but fumbles the ball and Team A recovers. Once the play is blown dead, Team A's attempt at scoring ends and Team B takes possession on the 35-yard line to begin their possession. In the event that the game is tied after three extra series, all teams must attempt a two-point conversion after scoring a touchdown.*

6.1.2.4 There are no time outs during overtime play.

6.1.2.5 The long snapper on punting/kicking situations cannot be hit/contacted until the centre leaves the neutral zone.

6.1.2.6 Exception to Rule 4, Section 5, Article 1E
Blocking below the waist is not limited to the close line play area.

6.1.2.7 Any player on the field or head coach is allowed to call a time-out.

6.2 Team Complement

During the regular season, no more than 45 players for the home team and for the visiting team may be dressed for an OUA game.

For OUA playoff games no more than 45 players for the home and 45 players for the visiting team may be dressed.

Team Rosters – Team Rosters must be submitted to the Convenor's Office and to each football member institution on Standardized Roster forms by Tuesday preceding the first Regular season game. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 Fine.

6.2.1 That competing teams exchange their depth charts and dress roster from the previous week's game with their upcoming opponent by 11:59 p.m. on game day. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine as outlined in the OUA Constitution, Section 7.8.15.

6.2.2 That competing teams Sports Information Directors, or designate, exchange a roster of 55 players who could potentially dress in that week's game by 12:00 pm on the Thursday prior to a Saturday game (and Friday prior to Labour Day Monday game). The roster shall at least include name, number, position, hometown, year, faculty/program.

6.2.3 **For competing teams Sports Information Directors, or designate, to submit their 45-man roster and depth chart electronically to the league office by 7:00 pm the night prior to every game. These rosters will be circulated only to media broadcasting each game (i.e. radio and/or television). A \$50 fine will be levied to any institution that does not adhere to the policy.**

- 6.2.4 It is the responsibility of the Home Team to produce official statistical sheets (official scoresheet, statistical summary and defensive summary), in addition to a Stat Crew file (which will be uploaded to the Infinity database). It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure that the game sheet stats match the output in the database.
- 6.2.5 Stat Crew printouts will be labeled "unofficial stats" if distributed to media at halftime and upon the completion of games. Media must be informed that the data is unofficial. Media requesting official game stats, will need to wait until the three game sheets are finalized by the crew.
- 6.3 **Visiting Team** - The visiting team must be in position and ready prior to introduction of home team.
- 6.3.1 Visiting teams are to stay within and no further than their own 45 yard line when they come on the field prior to kick-off and half-time. Both teams (home and visiting) are to show respect for their opponents during pre-game introductions, halftime, and post game.
- 6.4 **Coin Toss** - In all league and playoff games, the choice of kickoff, end of field, receiving the kickoff or deferring to the second half shall be decided by the toss of the coin; the visiting team shall call the toss of the coin.
- 6.5 **Medical Doctor** - The host team shall be responsible for a qualified doctor to be in attendance at every football game.
- 6.6 **Jerseys** - The home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visitors light jerseys. **Queen's University will wear solid gold for all games. Teams visiting Queen's will have an option to wear their dark or light uniforms.**
- 6.7 **Scouting** - Scouting shall be allowed and passes to the game must be provided visiting scouts.
- 6.8 **TECHNOLOGY**
- 6.8.1 **For Spotting / Communication**, the Home Team is responsible for equitable dual spotting phones to the Visiting Bench. There will be a maximum of two lines of communication with connector from spotters booth to sideline.

During the course of the game, the Visiting Team's communication (headsets) must be operational in order for the Home Team to operate their headsets. If the Home Team communication system is not operational, the Visiting Team may continue to operate their headsets.

6.8.2 **Film / Video Exchanges - Film Quality Standards:**

All teams will strive towards the following standards:

1. Close shot of break from huddle to line of scrimmage (to see player jersey #) then back off to wide angle (full field)
2. Same standards as above for Special Teams (Note: Full field with Kick Coverage)
 - Tight line shot from tackle to tackle (TE is used) must begin prior to snap
 - Scoreboard flashes after each score and at end of each quarter
 - Flashes to officials for signal of penalty call(s)

It shall be the responsibility of the Home Team, (as quickly as possible) to capture a sideline and end zone view according to the standards outlined above.

Changes from last year are **highlighted**

Sideline and end zone views should be uploaded immediately following the game.

Games must be available for downloading by the visiting team by 11:59 p.m. on the game day. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine as outlined in the OUA Constitution, Section 7.8.15

The depth chart utilized for the game must be made available to upcoming opponents and e-mailed by 11:59 p.m. on game day. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine as outlined in the OUA Constitution, Section 7.8.15"

All OUA game tapes will be made available to all OUA football teams.

In addition to timely uploading, the quality and length of the games must be in the required WMV format. Downloaded copies of game film will be in a WMV format. (This is a compressed file format which enables a faster transmission than normal files).

The Visiting Team will not be responsible for any uploads of games.

Teams will not be provided access to any game film until their most recent film has been uploaded.

In the case of catastrophic circumstances in which equipment is damaged, or completely unable to be used in the procedure, the home team will not be fined but will be required to provide in writing a description of the problem, in addition to a solution for the issue. This document MUST be signed by the athletic director verifying that is in good faith and submitted to the OUA Football Convenor immediately.

The home team should contact GameTapeExchange for customer support.

Dwayne Richards – dwayne@gametapexchange.com

(480) 710-2403

(480) 557-6800

(866) 306-6800

The visiting team must be contacted immediately and advise of the problem.

6.8.3 **Video-tape Analysis During Games** - Rules for video tape analysis use during games is prohibited as per Football Canada Rules.

6.8.4 **Direct Electronic Communication with On-Field Players** - Any direct electronic communication with players on the field from Spotter's Booth or Sidelines is prohibited.

6.8.5 **Still Photo Use** - Use of still photos (Polaroid or digital) is legal.

6.9 **Use of Electronic Media:**

6.9.1 Prior to the beginning of the season the host institution shall provide the visitors with a sketch and written explanation of the allocation of press box space for the film crew, spotters, visiting reporters as well as the location of visitors' bench and warm-up area.

6.10 **Practices:**

6.10.1 The starting date for training camp shall be fourteen (14) days before Labour Day Monday. Date to be determined annually at AGM.

2009 – August 24

2010 – August 23

2011 – August 22

Changes from last year are **highlighted**

6.10.2 The start of training camp is defined as the date when coaches and players may come together as members of the roster under the supervision and direction of the coaching staff.

6.11 **Dressing Rooms:**

6.11.1 The visiting teams shall be provided with the exclusive use of adequate accommodation at the playing field.

6.12 **Playing Field:**

6.12.1 On the day of a league game the field shall be reserved exclusively for that game.

6.13 **Half-Time:**

6.13.1 The half-time period shall not exceed 20 minutes and the host member shall be responsible that the half-time features and band performances do not exceed the allotted time.

6.13.2 **Quarter-Breaks** - For all OUA football games, there will be a mandatory 90-second quarter-time break for in-stadium promotions and media time-outs. The 90-second quarter-time break shall occur at the conclusion of the first and third quarters and shall be observed even in the case that a game is not broadcast on either television or radio.

6.14 **Scoring:** Standard point system shall be used for league standings, as follows:

W	L
2	0

6.15 **20-Second Delay of Game Clock**

6.15.1 The home team must have a working 20-second Delay of Game clock at their facilities. The home team must provide a separate timekeeper for 20-second clock, if necessary. The clock shall start on the Referee's whistle. The responsibility for determining whether a team has taken a Time Count penalty remains with the officials. In the event of a malfunctioning clock, the Referee shall be the sole judge of when the time count starts and ends.

The timekeeper or time-keepers must be Football Canada Certified Minor Officials and shall keep time according to Football Canada Rule Book Rule 1 Section 5, following the recognized signals by the officials.

6.16 **Starting Times:**

6.16.1 Afternoon games shall normally commence at 1:00 pm and night games at 7:00 pm. All games played after the end of daylight saving time and all playoff games, shall commence at 1:00 pm. Any changes to this must be agreed to in writing by both Athletic Directors and submitted to the Convenor and copied to the OUA Office.

6.16.2 All OUA games shall start at 7 minutes after the top or bottom of the hour (i.e. 1:07 pm or 7:07 pm).

6.16.3 Immediately following the game, the two coaching staffs will shake hands with each other, separate from the players.

6.17 **Officials' Evaluation:**

6.17.1 An officials' evaluation form **must** be completed by the Head Coach regarding each of the members of the officiating crew at the conclusion of each contest and forwarded to the Referee-In-Chief. The form should allow for both positive and negative comments. Failure to comply will be a \$50 fine assessed by the convenor.

Changes from last year are **highlighted**

6.17.2 Head Coaches and Officials will meet every year prior to the start of the season. The weekend prior to August training camp.

6.17.3 The Coaches/Officials Liaison Committee will meet every year to discuss rules and official issues. The committee will consist of three OUA Head Football Coaches, OUA Director of Football Referees and the OUA Supervisor of Football Officials.

6.18 **Convenor's Duties:**

6.18.1 The Football Convenor's duties with respect to disciplinary matters are as follows:

Game protest must be made by telephone and followed up in writing by email by the Athletic Director to the convenor within 48 hours. Provided all pertinent information is documented in the written protest, the Convenor shall render a decision within another 48 hours.

6.18.2 The Football Convenor shall deal with all indefinite suspensions and automatic suspensions. In accordance with the spirit and intent of OUA General Regulations 3.3 and 3.4, infractions that lead to player ejections may result in a minimum sanction of a one (1) game suspension. If suspended, the player must sit out the game immediately following the ejection. The Convenor shall assess that suspension, informing the Athletic Directors and coaches of both teams, the OUA Executive Officer, the Chairman of the Judicial Committee and the OUA Referee-In-Chief.

A second infraction resulting in a player ejection will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season.

6.18.3 The Football Convenor shall be empowered to suspend players, coaches, managers and team officials in accordance with OUA Rules and the Canadian Rule Book for Tackle Football.

6.18.4 Appeals to the rulings by the Convenor may be made to the Judicial Committee. For matters referred to the Judicial Committee, full written submissions will be made by the Convenor, both Athletic Directors concerned and the OUA Referee-In-Chief. A \$100.00 deposit to cover the expenses of convening the Judicial Committee must accompany the appeal as per OUA General Regulations.

6.19 Photography

Photographers and camera operators attending games during the 2009 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) football season are required to stay three metres behind the sidelines and end zones for the safety of players and officials during plays. Unless authorized, photographers and camera operators are prohibited from team bench areas.

Leaving camera equipment unattended along the sidelines and end zones is strictly prohibited.

Photographers and camera operators failing to comply will be removed from field level. Your cooperation is appreciated. [Added July 2009]