THE SEASON-END PLAYBOOK
FOOTBALL EDITION

A coach's playbook for equipment care, field maintenance & next-season readiness: Finish the season strong. Use this checklist to protect your equipment investment, maintain your playing surface, organize team gear, and prepare your program for next year.

1. Field & Turf Maintenance

NATURAL GRASS

check

___ Inspect high-wear areas, especially between the hash marks and near the goal lines, for bare spots, divots, and compaction.

___ Plan overseeding, aeration, topdressing, or sod repairs as appropriate for local conditions.

___ Continue mowing and watering as needed to support grass recovery before dormancy.

___ Coordinate late-season fertilization and soil amendments with grounds staff.

___ Inspect drainage, irrigation, field edges, and sideline areas.

___ Winterize irrigation systems before freezing weather.

SYNTHETIC TURF

check

___ Remove debris, litter, leaves, etc. from the field.

___ Arrange brushing, grooming, infill redistribution, and cleaning according to manufacturer recommendations.

___ Inspect seams, inlaid markings, logos, and high-wear areas for damage. Create Spring checklist.

___ Report uneven infill, drainage issues, surface damage, or areas requiring professional evaluation.

ALL FIELDS

check

___ Inspect goalposts, padding, field markings, sideline areas, and field-access points.

___ Remove temporary equipment, practice markers, and sideline accessories.

___ Document maintenance priorities and schedule repairs before the next season.

Notes: _____

_____

_____

☐ Completed Initials_____ Date_____

2. Helmets & Shoulder Pads

check

___ Collect, count, and inventory every helmet, faceguard, shoulder pad, and assigned accessory.

___ Record each item's manufacturer, model, size, serial number where applicable, and recertification history.

___ Inspect helmets for cracks, damaged shells, loose or missing hardware, worn padding, and damaged chin straps.

___ Inspect shoulder pads for cracked plastic, damaged straps, broken buckles, worn padding, and missing components.

___ Tag questionable or damaged equipment and remove it from service pending qualified evaluation.

___ Arrange helmet and faceguard reconditioning and recertification according to manufacturer requirements.

___ Schedule shoulder-pad cleaning, sanitization, inspection, and any recommended professional reconditioning.

___ Verify that replacement parts are approved for the specific equipment model.

___ Record equipment that should be retired or replaced before next season:

	REPAIR	MONITOR	REPLACE
_____	☐	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐	☐

☐ Completed Initials_____ Date_____

Important: Follow manufacturer instructions and use qualified service providers for all football equipment maintenance.

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3. Uniforms & Pads Cleaning

check

___ After collecting jerseys, pants, practice uniforms, socks, etc. separate heavily soiled items and identify garments needing repair or replacement.

___ Follow garment care labels; use appropriate detergent and recommended wash settings.

___ Clean and sanitize reusable pads, practice shields, blocking dummies, footballs, water coolers, benches, and shared training equipment according to manufacturer guidance.

___ Dry everything completely before storage to reduce mildew, odor, and material deterioration.

___ Count, sort, and store uniforms by size, number, and team level.

☐ Completed Initials_____ Date_____

5. Storage & Organization

check

___ Empty equipment bags and lockers. Group equipment by category: helmets, shoulder pads, uniforms, practice gear, balls, and accessories.

___ Assign designated, clearly labeled storage locations for each team and equipment type.

___ Use properly sized racks, shelving, carts, and helmet or shoulder-pad storage systems to keep gear organized, accessible and protected from crushing. Consider high-density storage systems and mobile team carts to maximize available space and simplify equipment distribution.

___ Ensure stored equipment is dry, ventilated, secure, and protected from moisture and temperature extremes.

___ Keep walkways, exits and electrical panels clear.

___ Update inventory and label storage locations before the next season.

☐ Completed Initials_____ Date_____

6. Rosters, Returning Players & Off-Season Development

check

___ Confirm returning players, graduating seniors, and expected roster needs by position.

___ Review player development, position depth, leadership potential, and areas for improvement.

___ Identify potential captains and emerging leaders for next season.

___ Set individual and team development goals based on coaching evaluations.

___ Communicate offseason strength, conditioning, speed, and skill-development opportunities.

check

___ Schedule offseason training, camps, clinics, and permitted team activities in accordance with applicable rules.

___ Review participation, retention, and opportunities to build the program.

___ Plan equipment fitting, uniform sizing, and new-player onboarding before next season.

Notes: _____

☐ Completed Initials_____ Date_____

7. Final Sign-Off

Outstanding items / follow-up actions: _____

_____

_____

_____

Coach signature: _____ Date: _____

Athletic director review: _____ Date: _____

Follow school district policies, equipment manufacturer instructions, applicable football governing-body rules, and qualified field-maintenance recommendations. This checklist supplements, but does not replace, required inspections and professional maintenance procedures.

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