

2016 Football Preseason Bulletin

July 2016

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2016 FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

1-5-1d(5)a):	Completely clear or completely white tooth and mouth protectors are no longer prohibited.
1-5 NOTE; 1-5-2b	Football gloves are now required to meet either the new SFIA specification or the existing NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture.
2-17; 9-3-6; 9-3 PENALTY	Clipping in the free-blocking zone is now illegal.

COMMENTS ON THE 2016 RULES CHANGES

COLOR RESTRICTIONS REMOVED FROM TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS (1-5-1d(5)a): Completely clear or completely white tooth and mouth protectors are no longer prohibited. Tooth and mouth protectors shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) portion and include a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion.

NEW SFIA FOOTBALL GLOVE SPECIFICATION (1-5 NOTE; 1-5-2b): Football gloves are now required to meet either SFIA specification or the existing NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture.

LEGAL CLIPPING ELIMINATED WITHIN THE FREE BLOCKING ZONE (2-17; 9-3-6; 9-3 PENALTY): In a continued effort to minimize risk, the Committee made clipping in the free-blocking zone illegal.

2016 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

RISK MINIMIZATION

Concussions

Concussions continue to be a focus of attention in football at all levels of competition. The NFHS has been at the forefront of national sports organizations in emphasizing the importance of concussion education, recognition and proper management.

Discussion of proper concussion management at all levels of play in all sports has led to the adoption of rules changes and concussion-specific policies by multiple athletic organizations, state associations and school districts. Coaches and game officials need to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of concussed athletes so that appropriate steps can be taken to safeguard the health and safety of participants.

There continues to be concern from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) about the cumulative effects of non-concussive blows to the head and body in practice and games. Research data is showing that there are significant impacts to the head during "non-contact" practice (such as "control"), and even in practices when players wear only helmets for protective gear. Therefore, the NFHS SMAC recommends that coaches consider holding their non-contact practices without helmets and pads for the purpose of reducing the number of blows to the head and body.

Impact Sensors

Impact sensor technology continues to advance and improve. These sensors can now be used to look at impact forces in real-time, while the players are actively participating in a sport. While these sensors are valuable as a research tool, they still cannot be used to diagnose a concussion. Players, parents, coaches and administrators need to be careful not to rely primarily on unproven technology to diagnose a concussion, or even as a tool to decide if a concussion should or should not be suspected.

Heat Illness

The NFHS SMAC continues to encourage athletic trainers, coaches, players and parents to be vigilant about heat illness. The pre-season is the time of greatest risk. An important component of heat illness awareness and preparation is to have in place a well-rehearsed Emergency Action Plan. This includes protocols for treating heat illness, including strategies for rapid cooling of at-risk athletes and guidelines for practice/game modification when indicated by Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) monitoring. Coaches need to remain open and flexible to change practice and game plans if environmental conditions are such that their players are at risk for heat illness. This is especially true during the heat-acclimation period at the start of pre-season training.

LEGAL AND ILLEGAL BLOCKS

Blocking is obstructing an opponent by contacting the opponent with any part of the blocker's body. Illegal blocking includes kick-catching interference, forward-pass interference, personal fouls and any other contact which is specifically prohibited such as targeting, blocking below the waist or in the back, chop blocking or clipping. Blocking can involve significant personal contact between a player and an opponent. When proper blocking techniques are taught by coaches and executed by players, risks of injury are minimized. Remember, a player may attempt to take an opponent out of a play, but it is NOT legal to attempt to take an opponent out

2016 POINTS OF EMPHASIS (cont'd)

of a game. A 2016 NFHS football rules change prohibits clipping anywhere on the field at any time, other than against a runner. Clipping is defined as a block against an opponent (other than a runner or pretended runner) when the initial contact is from behind and is at or below the waist. This action, under certain circumstances, was previously legal in the free blocking zone. Such is no longer the case. Coaches are encouraged to teach blocking techniques that do not include contact from the rear at or below the waist.

Game officials are reminded to maintain the integrity of the game and uphold their responsibilities to officiate blocking within the spirit and intent of the rules. Player safety and risk minimization are central objectives of officiating. Efforts by the NFHS rules committee, NFHS member state associations and school administrators should be supported by coaches and appropriate rules enforced by game officials to minimize risks to student-athletes.

LEGAL JERSEYS, PANTS AND PADS

In order to provide for the safety and protection of all participants, players are required to wear equipment and uniforms which are properly fitted and worn in the manner intended by the manufacturer. Jerseys are required to completely cover the shoulder pads and any auxiliary pads, such as rib pads or back pads. Pants must completely cover the knees and knee pads, and knee pads must be worn over the knee.

It is becoming more common to see the sleeves of jerseys slide up over the top of the shoulder pad, thus exposing a portion of the pad or untucked jerseys that do not cover the back pads. Additionally, many players wear pants that slide up during use, thus exposing the knee pad or the knee.

Due to the potential for injury to either the player wearing such jersey, pants or pads, or to an opponent, it is essential that players not be permitted to participate unless their jerseys and pants fully comply with the rules. A player whose jersey or pants slide up during game action must immediately make an adjustment to the garment to ensure that it covers all pads and protective equipment or, in the case of pants, fully covers the knees and knee pads. If adjustment to the jersey or pants during a dead-ball period cannot be made, the player should not be permitted to continue as a participant on the field of play. Game officials should not permit the ball to become live when they observe any player whose jersey or pants fail to comply with the rules.

UNFAIR ACTS

Rule 9-10 states that a player or non-player or person(s) not subject to the rules shall not hinder play by an unfair act that has no specific rule coverage. Teams shall not commit any act which, in the opinion of the referee, tends to make a travesty of the game.

The spirit of the game of football lives in effective blocking, fundamental tackling, tireless pursuit, skillful running, passing and kicking, and well-planned game strategy. This positive atmosphere cannot be maintained unless both the spirit and intent of the NFHS football rules are observed. If the potential values of the game experience are to be attained, that the action of the players must conform with the rules, which specifically prohibit unfair tactics and unsportsmanlike conduct. Unfair tactics detract from the positive atmosphere and the values of interscholastic athletics, and have no place in the game of football. The prohibition of unfair tactics will encourage sportsmanship, which permeates every aspect of our game.

2016 POINTS OF EMPHASIS cont'd

Coaches should exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, integrity and leadership, adhering to strong ethical standards, and abiding by and teaching the rules of the game in both spirit and intent.

Student-athletes should understand the seriousness of their responsibility to teammates and opponents and the privilege of representing their school and community.

As leaders, we must recommit ourselves to the preservation of fair play, which includes eliminating illegal, unfair or dangerous acts both on the practice field and on the field of play.

The NFHS Football Rules Book specifically prohibits unfair acts. Rule 9-10 lists some examples of unfair acts, including hiding the football under a jersey or using an illegal kicking tee. Other unfair acts are prohibited by the spirit and intent of other rules, include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Uniforms which do not conform to specified standards or which have a foreign substance on them;
2. Use of disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with the offensive team's signals or movements; and
3. "Hide-Out" plays, including those that use a substitution or pretended substitution in order to deceive opponents at or immediately before the snap or free kick.

Of course, it is impossible to list every unfair act that could take place. Deliberately violating the rules in the hope or expectation of not being detected is deplorable and indefensible, and should be penalized.

To this end, the referee is given great discretion in penalizing unfair acts and may enforce any penalty he or she considers equitable, including the awarding of a score. If an unfair-act foul occurs and the foul already has a penalty associated with it, the referee may invoke another equitable penalty if the foul is so unfair that its normal penalty would be insufficient. For example, a substitute coming off the sideline to tackle the runner has committed illegal participation, which normally carries a 15-yard penalty. The normal penalty may be sufficient if this happens while the runner is surrounded by other defensive players and would likely be tackled anyway. However, the normal penalty would be insufficient, and enforcing it would make a travesty of the game, if the act occurred on the last play of the game while a runner was heading to the opponent's end zone well beyond the reach of any other defender. In such a case, the awarding of a score would be more equitable.

The prohibition of unfair acts is not a prohibition of special or "trick" plays. Such plays are permissible, but they must be run within the spirit and intent of the rules. Game time and circumstance are factors to consider as to the legality of any such play. Teams attempting to run trick plays must follow all NFHS football rules precisely without any leeway. Coaches are encouraged to discuss any such plays, including the time they are likely to run such plays, with the referee in the pre-game conference.

It is imperative that coaches, players and game officials make an extra effort to model the type of behavior that illustrates the educational values of interscholastic athletics in general, and football in particular. No true sportsman will violate any of the unwritten rules which exist for the good of the game. The spirit of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.

2016 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2016 NFHS Football Rules Book.
- Request that college and professional football Contest sites mark their fields in accordance with Rule 1-2-3d, inbounds lines. If that is not possible, it is permissible to use college or professional fields with inbounds lines marked at the distance specified by their respective codes.
- Adopt Rule 1-3-1 NOTE, specifications for the ball to be used in Contests involving only players below the 9th grade.
- Adopt Rule 1-3-7, authorizing the use of supplementary equipment to aid in Contest administration.
- Modify Rule 3-5-10b (Concussion Rule), to clarify that “an appropriate health-care professional” is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO).
- Adopt Rule 3-1-1 NOTE, the Resolving Tied Games (10-Yard Line Overtime) Procedure for use during senior high school varsity football Regular Season and Postseason Contests, as set forth in the NFHS Football Rules Book.
- Adopt Rule 3-1-2, running clock, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, upon completion of the first half and one Team gains a 35-point differential over its opponent, the clock shall be stopped only when an official's time-out is taken, a charged time-out is granted, a period ends, or a score occurs.

POLICY REGARDING SPECTATOR DECORUM OUTSIDE EVENTS

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are **PROHIBITED!** The Principal and Athletic Director of each school will be requested to confiscate these items from their cheerleaders and/or the spectators from their school and community. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. **Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Championship Contests. Principals and Athletic Directors of competing schools shall announce and publicize these regulations.**

The principal, athletic director, coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball holders, and statisticians will be the only persons permitted in the team box.

NFHS Comments Regarding Targeting

“Targeting” Defined in High School Football in Effort to Reduce Risk of Injury

In an effort to reduce contact above the shoulders and lessen the risk of injury in high school football, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee developed a definition for “targeting,” which will be penalized as illegal personal contact.

Effective with the 2014 high school season, new Rule 2-43 reads: “Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders.”

Bob Colgate, NFHS director of sports and sports medicine and liaison to the Football Rules Committee, said the committee determined – in its continued effort to minimize risk of injury in high school football – that it was important to separate and draw specific attention to this illegal act.

“Taking aim with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders to initiate contact above the shoulders, which goes beyond making a legal tackle, a legal block or playing the ball, will be prohibited,” Colgate said.

A new definition for a “defenseless player” was also added to Rule 2 for risk-minimization purposes. Rule 2-32-16 will read as follows: “A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury.”

In an effort to reduce the risk of injury on kickoffs, the rules committee approved two new requirements in Rule 6-1-3 for the kicking team. First, at least four members of the kicking team must be on each side of the kicker, and, second, other than the kicker, no members of the kicking team may be more than five yards behind the kicking team’s free-kick line.

Rule 6-1-3 also notes that if one player is more than five yards behind the restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul. In addition to balancing the kicking team’s formation, the change limits the maximum distance of the run-up for the kicking team.

In other changes, new language was added to Rule 8-5-1 and states that “the accidental touching of a loose ball by a player who was blocked into the ball is ignored and does not constitute a new force.” In addition, roughing the passer fouls now include all illegal personal contact fouls listed in Rule 9-4-3, which result in automatic first down in addition to a 15-yard penalty.

Football is the No. 1 participatory sport for boys at the high school level with 1,115,208 participants in the 2012-13 school year, according to the High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS through its member state associations. In addition, the survey indicated there were 1,660 girls who played football in 2012-13.

Emergency Action Plans for Officials Chapters

Officials’ chapter officers should be aware of emergency exits, AED devices, and other emergency items in the event a chapter member needs medical assistance or emergency action needs to be taken during a chapter or mandatory rules meeting.

POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF EYE SHADE

The use of eye shade must be worn as a single, solid stroke under the eye. There shall be no numbers, words, logos, symbols or other detail located in the eye shade. The eye shade shall not extend below the cheek bone and extend no further than the width of the eye socket. Players having eye shade that does not meet the standard are to remove it or comply with the PIAA interpretation before participation in the game. If the players do not comply, the officials may impose unsportsmanlike conduct type penalties as determined by their respective rules code.

PIAA CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR ALL SPORTS

PIAA has a written policy regarding conflict of interest. This policy is in all of our post regular season officiating contracts and is contained in the PIAA Athletic Officials' Manual for all officials to view.

An official will remove themselves from a contest if they find that they have any personal association with any of the competitors or coaches on any team, with the competitors' school, or with the competitors' community, such as being a relative of a competitor, or being an employee or a relative of a competitor in the competitors school district, or a resident of the competitors' community.

COMMENT: Officials accepting assignments for contest at their local school where they live, or have a relative competing, place themselves in a compromising position in the performance of their duties as a registered official. Every decision and judgment is open to criticism and places the official in a compromising position where it brings into question the integrity and actions of the official. This is an indefensible position for the official and assignments of this nature are not to be taken or accepted by PIAA registered sports' officials. Extreme cases of emergency and situations that may be completely unavoidable are the only exceptions to this policy.

2016 PIAA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date: August 15
Minimum Length of Preseason Practice: 3 weeks
First Inter-School Practice or Scrimmage Date: August 20
Maximum Number of Regular Season Inter-School Practices or Scrimmages: 2
First Regular Season Contest Date: September 2
Maximum Length of Regular Season: 9 weeks
Maximum Number of Regular Season Contests: 10
Last Regular Season Contest Date: November 7
District Deadline: November 12
First Round: November 18 & 19
Quarterfinals: November 25 & 26
Semi-Finals: December 2 & 3
PIAA AAAA Football Championships: December 8th HERSHEY PARK Stadium, Hershey
PIAA A & AAAAA Football Championships: December 9th HERSHEY PARK Stadium, Hershey
PIAA AA & AAA & AAAAAA Football Championships: December 10th HERSHEY PARK
..... Stadium, Hershey

OFFICIALS' UNIFORM

1. The PIAA Official's Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official's standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.
2. All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.
3. Required uniform for football officials:
 - Hat:** Black fitted baseball cap with white piping. The referee shall wear a solid white fitted baseball cap.
 - Shirt:** Alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped, long or short sleeved shirt with a black collar.
 - Belt:** Black belt 1 1/4 to 2 inches wide.
 - Pants:** Black - tailored black pant with white stripe on outside of leg.
 - Stockings:** One-piece solid black stocking.
 - Shoes:** **SOLID BLACK** with black laces (no white markings).
 - Jacket:** Black and white vertically striped jacket (not to be worn during the game).
 - Lanyard:** Black.
 - Whistle:** Black finger style (recommended).
 - Turtleneck:** Black or white (if needed).

The wearing of jewelry (except wedding bands and medical-alert bracelets) and wrist watches (except as a required timing device) is prohibited. Smoking and/or tobacco chewing is prohibited. (Minutes, Board of Control, PIAA Summer Workshop, July 17, 1989, p. 3).

PIAA sports' officials may display an American flag (maximum size 2 by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of their uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve.

Please Note: Shorts are not permitted as part of the PIAA required uniform policy (July 17, 1998 Board of Control meeting).

GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCE

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play.
 - When thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a visible lightning strike, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches, and game personnel.
5. Inform student-athletes of lightning policy at start of season.

As copied from the NFHS 2016 Football Rules Book.

Officials should confer with onsite staff and use all available resources when making a decision with regard to lightning.

<u>OFFICIAL COIN TOSS MECHANICS</u>	<u>OVERTIME PROCEDURE</u>
<p>When the official coin toss is held prior to the game's ceremonial coin toss, it is recommended to have the official coin toss, in the home team end zone or mid-field, 30 minutes prior to contest with the Head Coaches and Captains' of each team. Officials are to read the PIAA Sportsmanship Message at this time and get legally equipped confirmation from each head coach.</p> <p>Give the visiting speaking captain their option of taking heads or tails before the coin is tossed. Once you have the result of the toss, give the winner of the toss their options. After the winner of the toss selects their option, give the other team their options of which way they want to kick.</p> <p>After Halftime – Eliminate ceremonial toss to press box and just go to each respective sideline and give instructions to line-up for kickoff based on your pre-game coin toss decisions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 Minute Intermission <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Communication vital. b. One time-out per-overtime period. c. Penalty carryover. 2. Coin Toss <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visitor's choice in 1st overtime. (rotate in subsequent OT). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offense vs. Defense. 2. Choice of end of field to put ball in play only one end will be utilized during the two sets of downs to insure equal game condition and conserve time. 3. 10-yardline to begin series 4. NO CLOCK 5. Series ends when A scores --- OR with Team B possession. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Try attempted by A. b. Try attempted by B unless winner is determined. c. If defense scores either safety or TD game is over. 6. Line-to-gain.....is always the goal line.

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PROPER PENALTY ADMINISTRATION

1. PHILOSOPHY-

A. First and foremost, officials need to adopt a philosophy regarding the calling of fouls. Something which has worked for countless officials is the axiom known as **MIBT. Make It Be There!** Excellence in officiating demands this type of thinking concerning fouls.

B. In conjunction with #1 listed above, officials need to be certain a foul affects the play. Was an advantage gained or was player safety compromised? These questions should precede throwing any flag.

C. Officials need to call fouls (or not call them) consistently throughout a given contest. For example, an illegal motion foul called in the first quarter must be called the same way in the 4th quarter. A “close” non-call on pass interference in the 2nd quarter must be ruled a no-call on a “close” call in the 4th quarter.

2. MECHANICS-

A. When any official detects a live ball foul, he must do three things:

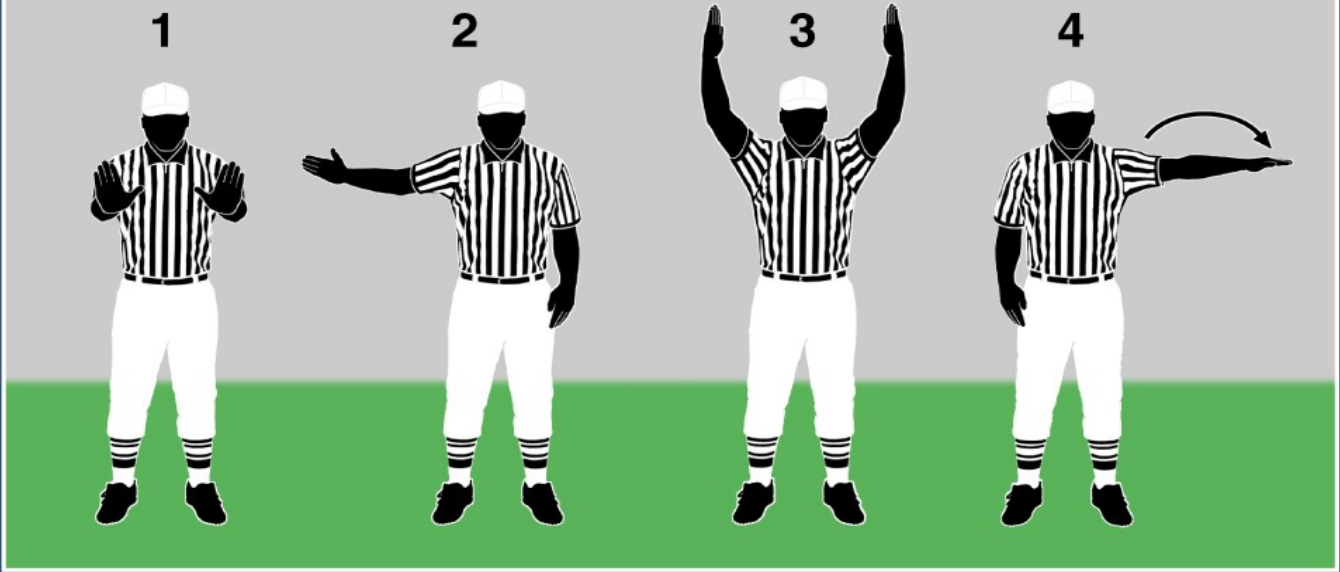
- ⇒ Continue to officiate until the ball is dead.
- ⇒ Stop the clock when the ball becomes dead, and
- ⇒ Sound his whistle to get the attention of the Referee and the other officials

B. When reporting to the Referee, it is sound officiating to do the following:

- ⇒ **SLOW DOWN**—there is no rush
- ⇒ Communicate—What, Who, When, and Where to the Referee
- ⇒ Know what the enforcement should be. (Do not put this solely on the Referee. If you called a foul, you are primarily responsible to see that it is properly enforced).

C. When possible, throw your flag about shoulder height at the exact spot (if applicable). The only exception to this would be a dead ball late hit foul, which occurs on the sideline area. In these cases, the flag should be thrown high into the air so that everyone knows a foul has been observed.

3. REMINDERS-1) Take your time when making your decision as to whether a foul has been committed. 2) If you need to get together with the other officials-GET TOGETHER. 3) Review penalty administration in your pre-game conference.



1. Signaling Sequence for Penalties Enforced on Subsequent Kickoff.
Signaling Sequence for Penalties Enforced on the Subsequent Kickoff:
2. Coin toss:
 - 3-2-1: At the coin toss in the center of the field the visiting-team's captain shall be given the privilege of choosing heads or tails before the coin is tossed.
 - The winner of the toss shall be given his choice of defense or offense first, or of designating the end of the field at which the ball will be put in play or this set of downs.
 - The loser will have his choice of the other options. The referee will indicate the winner of the toss by placing a hand on his shoulder.
 - To indicate which team will go on offense, the referee will have that captain face the goal toward which his team will advance and indicate this with the first-down signal.
 - The other team captain will face the offensive captain with his back toward the goal he will defend.

The NFHS Officials Manual Committee has approved a new procedure to be used on scoring plays involving a penalty by the opponent of the scoring team. The following is the procedure that is to be used by the referee:

- 1 and 2. Referee gives preliminary penalty signal and indicates offending team.
- The referee then obtains the captain's choice.
- 1 and 2. Referee gives penalty signal and indicates offending team again.
- If penalty is accepted and is to be enforced on the subsequent kickoff, the Referee indicates that the score counts.
- If penalty will be enforced on the subsequent kickoff, the Referee should indicate by pointing to midfield.
- The Back Judge in 5-person and the umpire in 6-person, will repeat penalty signal and indicate offending team again by giving final signals, prior to stepping off penalty and prior to the subsequent kickoff.

PIAA BY-LAWS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

Any coach and/or contestant who, while coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating **for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition.** For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest(s) in that sport.

The official shall file a report with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

In football, the athletic director and principal must meet with the ejected coach/contestant and detail in a report what corrective action has been taken. This report then must be signed by all parties and sent to the district football chairperson. This form is located on the PIAA website on the football page

When a coach or contestant is disqualified/ejected from a Regular or Post-Regular Season Contest a report must be filed by the official who disqualified/ejected the coach or contestant. When the report is received in the PIAA Office it is faxed to the concerned school Principal and Athletic Director and mailed to the respective District Chairmen, officials' representatives and sportsmanship chair. A copy is also given to the Associate Executive Director and placed in the school's file.

OFFICIALS ARE TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE PIAA OFFICE ON THE APPROPRIATE FORM WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EJECTION OR THEY MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION.

Officials must complete the disqualification form online through the officials' information area of the PIAA website. Officials who repeatedly do not file the proper form in the prescribed time period may be suspended.



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EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

The following examples are for players or coaches and are only examples and not a complete list. What this means is a player or coach ejected from a contest at any level must sit out the remainder of the day and the next day of the next contest at that level.

Example #1: Player/coach gets ejected from a junior varsity contest before a varsity contest. This player/coach gets disqualified for the **remainder of the day and the next day** of the next junior varsity contest. If this contest is followed by a varsity contest **on the same day**, the player/coach gets disqualified for the varsity contest also (**the whole day**).

Example #2: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity contest on Friday, the team's next varsity contest is Friday. Before the varsity contest is a scheduled junior varsity contest, player/coach cannot participate in any of Friday contests.

Example #3: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity football game Saturday. The next varsity contest is a game on next Friday but the game gets postponed to Saturday. On Saturday, the junior varsity team is to play in another football game, is player and/or coach eligible to participate in the junior varsity game?

Ruling: No. Since the Friday contest was postponed the **next varsity game** is the same day as the junior varsity game and the player/coach are not eligible to participate the whole day.

SECTION 4 VIOLATION OR CANCELLATION OF SPORTS OFFICIAL'S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL

If a PIAA member school violates or cancels a contract with an official, the District Committee or the Board of Directors, in their respective jurisdictions, may require a school so violating or so canceling to pay to the offended official the fee or fees for the Contest or Contests which have been provided in the official contract. Failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of PIAA.

Comment: It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that officials have lost assignments or games because a school or assignor has "double booked" the contest. Officials are reminded that unless there is a written contract executed between the parties, they have no claim to any type of reimbursement from the offending school(s). Many schools have made a "good faith" effort to the officials to get them an additional assignment in the future or offer a scrimmage to pick up the lost fees. However, officially, without a written, signed, properly executed contract between the official(s) and the school(s), there is no recourse for the officials. In this day of technology it is not very hard for assignors, or schools, to execute these contracts. This is part of an assignor's responsibility. Officials should request contracts from their assignors or schools for both parties protection.

PIAA BY-LAWS, ARTICLE XV; SECTION 3 REQUIREMENT OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

All PIAA member schools shall enter into either paper or electronic contracts on the official contract form entitled "Contract for Officials Under PIAA Rules" with all registered sports officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by PIAA.

PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE

For the 2016-2017 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:

- One Million Dollars of Liability Coverage;
- \$25,000 Excess Accident Medical Coverage (with a \$250 deductible);
- \$5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (including a cardiac benefit).

This program is administered by American Specialty Insurance Services and underwritten by USF&G and Mutual of Omaha. Both carriers carry "A" ratings by A.M. Best. Again this year, as a new service for chapters, all regularly scheduled chapter meetings will be covered under PIAA's basic liability coverage. This is a major change from the past when only the annual rules interpretation meetings have been covered. Chapters are requested to please submit their list of regularly scheduled chapter meetings to the PIAA Office to assist procedurally in the exchange of information to have all local associations' meetings covered.

Contact information is as follows:

Drew Smith,
Vice-President for Client Services
Sara Douglass, Administrative Assistant
American Specialty Insurances Services, Inc.
142 N. Main Street,
P.O. Box 309
Roanoke, Indiana 46783-0309
Phone: 260-672-8800
Fax: 260-673-1295
www.amerspec.com



VISORS

Officials are reminded that visors being worn by players during competition are now legal by NFHS football rules provided they meet two criteria as detailed in Rule 1-5-3,c-4. An eye shield attached to the helmet that is (a) constructed of a molded rigid material or (b) is clear without the presence of any tint. This alleviates the paperwork from principals signing off on the use of these items for their players and the officials having to review them before the contest.

COMMON SENSE OFFICIATING

With all the dialogue of concussions and the prevention of injuries, officials are requested to use prudent judgment in the handling of players who appear injured during playing action. If a player exhibits any signs of a concussion, or is injured in any manner, officials should do their due diligence in requesting the team's coaching staff or team medical personnel evaluate the player(s) involved. This is priority communication between the officials and the coaching staff. Please ensure that any player who appears injured must be evaluated by the team's medical personnel. Safety of players is priority one and before we remove any player from a contest, make sure the team's medical personnel are involved with the decision making.

FIFTH QUARTER

Officials are not authorized to remain on the field in an officiating capacity if schools agree to play extended quarters. This is contrary to authorized playing time for junior high and senior high competition. This type of action may place officials in liability jeopardy since these type of activities violate the standard of play for length of games/quarters in the NFHS football rules book and the PIAA By-laws.

PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.

PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, team, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the officials that your players are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today's contest..



Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to read this message at each contest they officiate.

There have been some concerns addressed by the schools that some of our officials are not reading the PIAA Sportsmanship message prior to the contest. This is an improper procedure and this message **MUST** be read. Officials are not to paraphrase, modify, or develop their own Sportsmanship Message to the captains and head coaches. The proper procedure is head coaches and captains **MUST** attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2016-2017 identification cards.

This message **MUST BE READ VERBATIM** by the contest officials. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Football Rules. The reading of this message will have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.

UNIVERSAL HYGIENE PROTOCOL FOR ALL SPORTS

- Shower immediately after every competition and practice.
- Wash all workout clothing after each practice.
- Wash personal gear (knee pads and braces) weekly.
- Do not share towels or personal hygiene products (razors) with others.
- Refrain from full body (chest, arms, abdomen) cosmetic shaving.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND FOOTBALL HELMET WARNING STATEMENT

Athletes who participate in the sport of football accept the risk of injuries. However, athletes also have the right to assume that those who are responsible for the conduct of the sport, i.e., administrators, coaches and athletic trainers, have taken reasonable precautions to minimize the risk of significant injury. Refinements in the playing rules, the development of risk minimization guidelines and the establishment of equipment standards have helped to reduce significant injuries. However, to legislate safety via the rules book and equipment standards are never a complete answer. All who are involved with participation in the sport of football share in the responsibility of minimizing the sport's inherent risks?

The coach is responsible for pregame verification that in addition to other required equipment, all players have a helmet which met National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standards when manufactured and each helmet has an exterior warning label. While important, the fact the athletes are wearing certified helmets is only the first step. The athletes involved must be aware of all the basic principles of head and neck injury prevention.

Helmet Warning Statement

Since 1985 the NOCSAE football helmet standard has required a warning label on the outside of the helmet to inform each player of these risks and responsibilities. The warning label must use language that conveys the following information:

WARNING

NO HELMET CAN PREVENT ALL HEAD OR ANY NECK INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT RECEIVE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FOOTBALL.

DO NOT USE THE HELMET TO BUTT, RAM OR SPEAR AN OPPOSING PLAYER. THIS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE FOOTBALL RULES AND SUCH USE CAN RESULT IN SEVERE HEAD OR NECK INJURIES, PARALYSIS OR DEATH TO YOU AND POSSIBLE INJURY TO YOUR OPPONENT.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND SKIN INFECTION PROCEDURES

Proper precautions are needed to minimize the potential risk of the spread of communicable disease and skin infections during athletic competition. These conditions include skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment. The transmission of infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Herpes Gladiatorum, blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, and other infectious diseases such as Influenza can often be greatly reduced through proper hygiene. The NFHS SMAC has outlined and listed below some general guidelines for the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

INFECTIOUS SKIN DISEASES

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of infection.
- Coaches, officials and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on "time until return to competition." Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or local guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.



BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:

- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During time of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.

For more detailed information, refer to the Infectious Disease and Blood-borne Pathogens" and "Skin Disorders" sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.



OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS







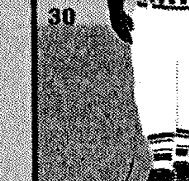
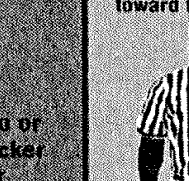



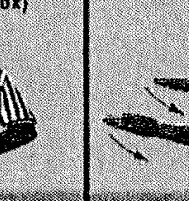







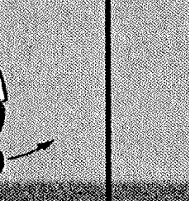
<p>1 Ball ready for play *Untimed down</p>	<p>2 Start clock</p>	<p>3 Time-out Discretionary or injury time-out (followed by tapping hands on chest)</p>		
<p>4 TV/radio time-out</p>	<p>5 Touchdown, Field goal, Point(s) after touchdown</p>	<p>6 Safety</p>	<p>7 Dead ball foul, Touchback (move side to side)</p>	
<p>8 First down</p>	<p>9 Loss of down</p>	<p>10 Incomplete forward pass Penalty declined No play, no score Toss option deferred</p>	<p>11 Legal touching of forward pass or scrimmage kick</p>	<p>12 Inadvertent whistle</p>
<p>13 Disregard flag</p>	<p>14 End of period</p>	<p>15 Sideline warning</p>	<p>16 First touching Illegal touching</p>	
<p>18 Encroachment</p>	<p>19 False start Illegal formation</p>	<p>20 Illegal shift (2 hands) Illegal motion (1 hand)</p>	<p>21 Delay of game</p>	<p>22 Substitution infraction</p>

PlayPic® PlayPics courtesy of Referee magazine.



OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS



<p>23 Failure to wear required equipment (Face press box)</p> 	<p>24 Illegal helmet contact</p> 	<p>25 Illegal horse-collar tackle</p> 	<p>27 Unsportsmanlike conduct Noncontact foul</p> 	<p>28 Illegal participation</p> 
<p>29 Sideline interference (Face press box)</p> 	<p>30 Running into or roughing kicker or holder</p> 	<p>31 Illegal batting/kicking (Followed by pointing toward toe for kicking)</p> 	<p>32 Invalid fair catch Illegal fair catch signal</p> 	<p>33 Forward pass interference Kick catching interference</p> 
<p>34 Roughing passer</p> 	<p>35 Illegal pass/forward handing (Face press box)</p> 	<p>36 Intentional grounding</p> 	<p>37 Ineligible downfield on pass</p> 	<p>38 Personal foul</p> 
<p>39 Clipping</p> 	<p>40 Blocking below waist Illegal block</p> 	<p>41 Chop block</p> 	<p>42 Holding/obstruction Illegal use of hands/arms</p> 	<p>43 Illegal block in the back</p> 
<p>44 Helping runner Interlocked blocking</p> 	<p>45 Grasping face mask or helmet opening</p> 	<p>46 Tripping</p> 	<p>47 Disqualification</p> 	

PlayPic® PlayPics courtesy of Referee magazine. Note: Signal numbers 17 and 26 is for future expansion.

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FOOTBALL PLAYER, COACH, OR TEAM PERSONNEL DISQUALIFICATION FORM

During the PIAA football Regular Season and Postseason, a disqualified football player, coach, and/or Team personnel shall not be permitted to participate **for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or Team personnel was previously disqualified.** For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with Article XIII, Section 8 of the PIAA By-Laws and NFHS Football Rules 2-16-2c; 2-20-1 and 2; 2-32-6; 2-32-16; 9-4; 9-4-1; 2, 3, 8; 9-5; 9-6; 9-8; and 9-9. The referee must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the Contest in which the disqualification took place.

Name of Ejected Player, Coach or Bench Personnel		School Name
Date of Contest	Location of Contest	Time of Contest
Visiting Team	PIAA District	Visiting Team's Final Score
Home Team	PIAA District	Home Team's Final Score
Name of Official Who Ejected Player, Coach or Bench Personnel		Level of Competition

REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION

SAMPLE

NOTES: