

PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

SEPTEMBER

2008

FOOTBALL BULLETIN I

Rules, Revisions and Interpretations

PIAA statewide Rules Interpreter: Charles H. Carr

FIELD MARKINGS

It has been reported that many of our high school football fields do not have the appropriate two yard broken line around the perimeter of the field. Please refer to Rule 1-2-3d; which states:

A 4 inch wide restraining line shall be placed around the outside of the field, at least 2 yards from the sidelines and end lines, as an extension of the line limiting the team box area, except in stadiums where the total playing enclosure does not permit. It is recommended that the restraining line be marked by placing 12-inch long lines, separated at 24-inch intervals.

Rule 1-2-3e, Note 2 states: *It is permissible to use college or professional fields with in-bounds lines marked at the distances specified by their respective codes.*

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Players must wear mandatory equipment which includes:

1-5-1b, *Hip pads and tailbone protector, neither of which is altered from the manufacturer's original design/production.*

1-5-1d, *knee pads, unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production, which are worn over the knee and under the pants and at least 1/2 inch thick or 3/8 inch thick if made of shock absorbing material.*

1-5-1e, *pants which cover the knees and knee pads.*

Comment: *There are NO expectations to the wearing of mandatory equipment.*

USE OF EYE SHIELDS

The principal may authorize, in writing, the use of an eye shield (visor) by a football player upon the receipt of a written statement from a physician or optometrist, in which the doctor prescribes or requires the use of an eye shield (visor). The eye shield (visor) must be clear, molded and non-rigid. A tinted eye shield (visor) may not be worn.

The principal, or his designee, must present his written authorization and the doctor's written statement to the game umpire and the opponent coach prior to the start of each game in which the player will wear an eye shield (visor) when participating in the contest.

Although the principal may authorize requests as described above, it should be understood that PIAA has neither approved nor endorsed eye shields (visors). Sport glasses/goggles maybe worn and do not have to be approved by the PIAA Executive Director or principal of the school.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Page 2** *Team Boxes*
- **Page 3** *Uniform Black Pants*
- **Page 4** *Disqualification Form*

PIAA Officials' Staff:	Dr. Robert A. Lombardi <i>Associate Executive Director</i>	Anita L. Fox <i>Chapters' Secretary</i>	Sara L. Gretton <i>Officials' Secretary</i>
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PIAA Executive Staff:	Bradley R. Cashman <i>Executive Director</i>	Melissa N. Mertz <i>Assistant Executive Director</i>	Mark E. Byers <i>Assistant Executive Director</i>
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PROPERLY PADDED HARD CASTS/SPLINTS PERMITTED

RULE 1-5-2e: Hard substance in its final form such as leather, rubber, plastic, plaster or fiberglass when worn on the hand, wrist, forearm or elbow unless covered on all exterior surfaces with no less the ½ inch thick, high density, closed cell polyurethane, or an alternate material of similar thickness to protect an injury as directed in writing by a licensed medical physician.

COMMENT: This rule applies only to the hand, wrist, forearm or elbow. Anything that was legal or illegal last season remains the same. The umpire could still not allow the cast or splint to be used if it was not padded properly. The physicians approval must be in writing and presented to the referee and umpire at the game site. The written approval need not be collected but must be shown. Any use of hard casts or splints must be:

- 1 Inspected by the umpire.
2. Have approval in writing by a licensed medical physician.

COURT APPOINTED MONITORING DEVICE

The PIAA Executive Director may authorize the wearing of a court ordered monitor by a student-athlete for the Regular Season and Postseason in the sport of football, provided that the monitor is covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than ½" thick high-density, closed-cell polyurethane or an alternate material of the same minimum thickness and with similar physical properties so that both the wearer and any other player(s) are sufficiently protected.

Please have schools request, in writing, from the PIAA Executive Director, this authorization. Upon receipt of this authorization the head coach of the requesting school is to present a copy of this letter to the referee, umpire, and opponent head football coach prior to each football game in which the student-athlete will participate while wearing a court ordered monitor.

If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, PIAA Associate Executive Director, at your convenience.

USE OF INTRAORAL MOUTH AND TOOTH PROTECTOR, ARTIFICIAL LIMBS, AND HEARING INSTRUMENT

All schools, coaches and players must comply with NFHS Football Rules 1-5-1i, 1-5-2e, 1-5-3b1, unless the following procedures are followed:

- A. A dentist/doctor must submit a written statement authorizing a student not to use an intramural mouth piece and tooth protector or authorizing a student to wear an artificial limb or hearing instrument. The authorization must be based on a health reason and the health reason must be included (stated) as part of the written authorization.
- B. The principal must submit a cover letter or request along with the dentist's/doctor's written authorization to the PIAA Executive Director. The cover letter must contain all pertinent information including the student's name, grade and team as well as the period of time for which the request is submitted.
- C. Upon the receipt of the written approval of the request from the PIAA Executive Director, the principal may permit the student to participate in football without or with the equipment, as requested.
- D. The principal, or his designee, must show a copy of the PIAA Executive Director's letter to the opponent coach and the referee prior to each game in which the student participates.

TEAM BOXES AND SIDELINE ENFORCEMENT

Team boxes shall be marked on each side of the field outside the coaches area between the 25 yard lines for use of coaches, substitutes, trainers, etc., affiliated with the team. The coaches area is a minimum of a 2 yard belt between the team box and the sideline.

COMMENT: This may cause a problem with wing officials and yard to gain officials in performing their duties. These officials are protected by the 2 yard restraining line around the perimeter of the field except for the coaches area (for three (3) coaches) between the 25 yard lines. It may be a good preventative officiating technique to request of the coaches to step back into the team box after the play is called to assist in providing a safer environment for coaches, officials and chain crews to perform their duties, and eliminate the potential for collisions and contact.

BLACK UNIFORM PANTS

Black uniform pants for PIAA registered football officials are only to be worn during games which involve **cold, wintery conditions**. They are not to be worn during games in which the conditions do not include very cold, windy, snow, sleet or freezing rain conditions. Cool fall evenings or rain are not games that officials are to be wearing black pants. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

PIAA 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 baseball cap with white piping. The referee shall wear a solid white 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.
- Knickers:** White tapered knickers shall be worn with a short overlap below the knee (not more than 4 inches).
- Stockings:** One-piece stocking with a modified northwestern stripe.
- 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 (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 no longer permitted as part of the PIAA required uniform policy (July 17, 1998 Board of Control meeting).

6 OFFICIALS' MECHANICS

The 6 officials' mechanics as adopted by the PIAA are the only ones that are to be used during the officiating of interscholastic football contest when using a 6 person crew. There are NO EXCEPTIONS! All officials need to be on the same page with this and if a change is to be made we need to address it through the appropriate process. Recommendations may be made, in writing, to the PIAA Officials' Council or to the PIAA Football Steering Committee. These recommendations must be made by the end of the football season to be presented to the respective committee. All recommendations are to be sent to PIAA Associate Director, Dr. Robert A. Lombardi at rlombardi@piaa.org via mail to PIAA, 550 Gettysburg Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

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.

SECTION 4 VIOLATION OR CANCELLATION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS'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.

