



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

FOOTBALL PRESEASON BULLETIN

**AUGUST
2011**



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RULES, REVISIONS, AND INTERPRETATIONS

*PIAA Statewide Rules
Interpreter: Buss Carr*



Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

2011/12 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

<u>1-1-8</u>	Administrative duties of game officials clarified.
<u>1-5-3c(3)</u> <u>(NEW)</u>	Eye shade restrictions adopted.
<u>2-3-8</u>	Chop block redefined.
<u>2-6-1, 2; 3-5-8</u>	Injury timeout conferences restricted to outside nine-yard marks.
<u>3-5-10a-c</u>	Provisions for removal of injured players standardized.
<u>9-4-3k</u>	Horse collar penalty enforcement clarified.
<u>9-4 PEN-ALTY</u>	Enforcement spot for roughing the passer revised.
<u>9-6-2</u>	Illegal participation revised.
<u>9-8-1g(3)</u> <u>(NEW)</u>	Penalty added for violations of Rule 3-2-2.
<u>Nine-, Eight- and Six-player Rules</u>	Removal of point differential note.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

CONCUSSIONS, CONTACT BOTH TO AND WITH THE HELMET, AND HELMET TECHNOLOGY AND PROPER HELMET FITTING:

As part of a long standing commitment to the minimization of risk for football participants, the NFHS Football Rules Committee has chosen to issue a single point of emphasis for 2011. This point of emphasis melds concerns about 1) concussion and the risks of initiating contact with and to the helmet; 2) contact initiated above the shoulders, particularly contact to the helmet, both by the person receiving the contact, and the person delivering the contact; and 3) proper helmet fitting. This unified emphasis continues a long-standing priority of the NFHS Football Rules Committee placing the health and safety of the individual participants above any other concern when writing and enforcing its rules code.

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 during the past several years. In addition, High School Reporting Information Online (RIO) and the National High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study provide the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) with information about concussion rates and mechanisms. Among the most concerning data from the 2010 high school football season were that concussions accounted for more than 20 percent of all injuries reported and that **60 percent of all concussions were the direct result of helmet-to-helmet contact!**

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 several athletic organizations, state associations and school districts. There has also been a focus within the medical community to standardize concussion diagnosis and management protocols and increase the level of awareness regarding appropriate concussion management. Governing bodies at all levels of play continue to review and revise playing rules and encourage practices that decrease the risk of concussion. In addition, this awareness has led to concussion legislation in a number of states. Some state associations have already established effective prevention and education programs. Coaches and officials are being trained to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of a concussed athlete so that appropriate steps can be taken to safeguard the health and safety of participants.

All coaches should undergo education and utilize available professional development tools regarding the signs and symptoms of concussion and the proper management of athletes with a suspected concussion. The NFHS offers the free course "Concussion in Sports: What You Need to Know" that is available at www.nfhslearn.com, and many states have developed their own education programs. It is incumbent upon coaches to lead by example in recognizing the seriousness of all suspected concussions.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS cont'd

CONTACT BOTH TO AND WITH THE HELMET: Over the years the NFHS Football Rules Committee has repeatedly emphasized the need to keep the **HEAD OUT OF FOOTBALL**, due to the potential for catastrophic head and neck injuries. Some form of helmet review or illegal helmet contact emphasis has been specifically targeted by the committee in its publications for review by coaches and officials 22 times since 1980. In the past few years, all levels of football have increased the focus on decreasing the risk of concussion, and it is widely conceded that one of the biggest steps in this effort is to eliminate direct helmet-to-helmet contact and any other contact both by and to the helmet.

Any initiation of contact with the helmet is illegal; therefore, there must be a focus on enforcing the existing rules. This year, the committee is taking the step to emphasize all types of illegal helmet contact:

- **Spearing** – an act by an offensive or defensive player who initiates contact against any opponent with the top of his helmet.
- **Face Tackling** – an act by a defensive player who initiates contact with a runner with the front of his helmet.
- **Butt Blocking** – an act by an offensive or defensive player who initiates contact against an opponent who is not a runner with the front of his helmet.

The committee is encouraging a renewed emphasis by both coaches and officials on other types of contact with and to the helmet, which are prohibited by the existing three rules cited above, as well as the unnecessary roughness provisions of Rule 9, which include:

- **Blows to the Head by the Defender** – Any act by a defensive player using the hand(s) to slap the opponent's head is illegal. A blocker may not initiate contact with his arm or hand against an opponent above the opponent's shoulder.
- **Initiating Contact to the Head** – It is illegal for a member of either team to use any other part of the body or equipment to initiate contact to the head. Contact to the helmet of another player could be one of the three specific illegal helmet contact fouls, or it could also be a personal foul for unnecessary roughness as defined by Rule 9-4-3g. This is not limited to acts by the defense (such as the defensive back making the "big hit" on the receiver, or the linebacker making the blow against a back out of the backfield), but such prohibition against contact to the helmet extends to all players on all parts of the field. When in doubt, it should be a foul.
- **Helmet-to-Helmet Contact** – Particularly in light of the recent RIO data findings, initiated acts of helmet-to-helmet contact must be penalized when they occur in contests, and must be corrected immediately if observed in practice. Contact initiated by one player with the helmet to the helmet of another player could be one of the three specific illegal helmet contact fouls, or it could also be a personal foul for unnecessary roughness as defined by Rule 9-4-3g. While inadvertent contact between helmets may occur in close line play or as players are closely engaged, all involved must be aware when the proverbial "line has been crossed," and an illegal act has occurred. When in doubt, it should be ruled a foul.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS cont'd

- **Making Initial Contact with the Defender while Running with the Head Down** – This act by the runner lowering his helmet to spear an opponent is not legal per Rule 9-4-3i, but needs special emphasis to help with risk minimization.

The illegal acts noted above have no place in the game, and the committee believes that renewed emphasis on getting illegal acts out of the game will improve player safety. When in doubt, these acts should be viewed as illegal. Coaches and officials must focus on:

- **Teaching** – Coaches must reinforce, through continual repetition, the proper techniques associated with blocking, tackling and running. Officials must learn to recognize the illegal aspects of these techniques and ensure that study is done by all officials on the crew and within the local association.
- **Recognition** – Because of the increased focus on head injury, officials and coaches must realize that helmet-to-helmet and illegal helmet contact fouls need to be consistently recognized and called throughout the game. It is imperative that officials and coaches also focus not only on the contact **WITH** the helmet, but any contact **TO** the helmet.
- **Calling/Enforcing** – Once recognized, officials must penalize these illegal acts consistently throughout the game, without warning, regardless of the situation. Whether it is in the first quarter of the first game, or overtime of the state championship, illegal helmet contact must be enforced and must be removed from the game by both coaches and officials. It is hoped that this simplified approach will be a positive step toward reinforcing player safety!

HELMET TECHNOLOGY AND

PROPER HELMET FITTING: The heightened concern about concussions and the variety of football helmets available have led participants and coaches to seek a helmet that they believe will protect a player from concussion. While many new football helmets incorporate new materials and designs, no football helmet is comprehensively protective against concussion. Therefore, it is incumbent upon athletic administrators, coaches, parents and participants to understand the limitations of all protective equipment, including the helmet. **Everyone must** realize that a combination of best practices, including but not limited to, repeated instruction on proper tackling and blocking techniques, proper helmet fitting and equipment tracking/recertification procedures, are the keys to limiting injury risk and must be emphasized within each program.

All persons involved with interscholastic football (including, but not limited to, school administrators, coaches, athletic trainers and officials, as well as the student-athletes themselves) share the responsibility for promoting health and safety. Among these responsibilities is the proper care and fitting of the helmet and other equipment. Each year, there exists the possibility that ill-fitted helmets and other equipment may contribute to a number of unnecessary injuries to these student-athletes. **Everyone involved with football has responsibility and should do the following:**

- School administrators must provide the means to obtain and maintain an adequate supply of safe and appropriate equipment.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS cont'd

In times when there are economic challenges in interscholastic athletics, school officials must ensure that decisions regarding helmet maintenance are made within the required standards and are not budget-based decisions;

- Coaches and athletic trainers must use due diligence and care when fitting their athletes with that equipment, as well as instructing them how to correctly use such equipment;
- Athletes must also take an active role in the proper fitting, wear and use of that equipment;
- Game officials are responsible for effectively administering the rules pertaining to the use and wearing of legal/illegal and required equipment during the football contests.

The helmet (with accompanying facemask) must display two labels: (1) a warning label and (2) NOCSAE certification. It must have a chin-strap with at least four attachment points, and all four points must be securely fastened when the helmet is being used. The helmet, including facemask and chin-strap, cannot be altered, as per its manufacturer's intended design, and (if desired) can only be fitted with a face-shield that is constructed of a rigid, molded material that is free of any tint whatsoever (an appropriate health-care professional's note cannot supersede this rule). Helmets, face masks, and chin-straps that are cracked, altered or otherwise broken must not be allowed to be worn.

Every football helmet manufacturer provides various helmet-fitting pamphlets with each helmet sold, detailing how to fit the helmet. If the helmet-fitting pamphlets or other football helmet-related instructions are missing, please contact the respective football helmet manufacturer and obtain replacements.

2011 RULES REVISIONS COMMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES OF GAME OFFICIALS CLARIFIED (1-1-8):

The committee clarified that administrative duties for game officials may need to continue after the game to document actions which occur during the game. This revision illustrates the difference between the game officials' jurisdiction during the game and other administrative responsibilities such as submitting specific reports after the game. In addition, the committee clarified that State Associations may continue to develop and implement policies that allow for review of unusual incidents that occur while the game officials have jurisdiction or after the game.

THIGH GUARD STANDARD REVISED [1-5-1c(4)]:

The committee determined that the thigh guard specifications regarding composition, compression resistance and required thickness of the outside and inside surfaces were not necessarily applicable to newer technologies being used in current production. The requirements for wearing thigh guards and that the guards be unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production remain part of the rule.

2011 RULES REVISIONS COMMENTS (cont'd)**EYE SHADE RESTRICTIONS**

ADOPTED (1-5-3c(3) NEW): The committee adopted new restrictions in response to increasing use of “face painting” and the placement of words and other symbols within eye shade (grease or no-glare strips or stickers). In recent years, players were applying materials in situations where it was not necessary for game conditions. In other cases, it appeared that some use of eye shade and other face paint was intended to draw attention to the individual player. Under the revision, if a player uses eye shade, it must be applied using a single solid stroke under each eye. The committee’s intent was that eye shade be located below and within the width of the eye socket and not extend below the cheek bone. No words, numbers, logos, or other symbols of any type may be included within the eye shade.

CHOP BLOCK REDEFINED (2-3-8):

The definition of a chop block was modified by the committee. The revised language specifies that any combination block where one block is high (above the knee) and one block is low (at or below the knees) constitutes a chop block, with or without a delay between the blocks. The rule change also stipulates that a low-low combination block is no longer a chop block.

INJURY TIMEOUT CONFERENCES RESTRICTED TO OUTSIDE NINE-YARD MARKS (2-6-1, 2; 3-5-8):

With two changes, the committee labeled the two types of authorized team conferences (“Outside Nine Yard Mark Conference” and “Between Nine Yard Mark Conference”).

In addition, the committee specified that when an injury occurs and the referee grants an authorized conference, it must be an “Outside Nine Yard Mark Conference”. This will give medical personnel time and space to address the injured player.

PROVISIONS FOR REMOVAL OF INJURED PLAYERS STANDARDIZED (3-5-10a-c):

The committee standardized the rules regarding the replacement of apparently injured players (3-5-10a), players who exhibit concussion signs and symptoms (3-5-10b) and players who are bleeding or have blood on himself or the uniform (3-5-10c). Players removed in any of these situations must leave the game for at least one down (unless halftime or the overtime intermission occurs) and comply with the remainder of the applicable rule. The rule also stipulates that the time-out taken in such circumstances constitutes an officials’ time-out.

HORSE COLLAR PENALTY ENFORCEMENT CLARIFIED (9-4-3k):

The committee stipulated that all horse collar fouls are to be treated as live ball fouls.

ENFORCEMENT SPOT FOR ROUGHING THE PASSER REVISED (9-4 PENALTY):

Penalties for roughing the passer are now enforced from the dead ball spot when there is no change of team possession and the dead-ball spot is beyond the line of scrimmage provided A maintains possession.

2011 RULES REVISIONS COMMENTS (cont'd)

ILLEGAL PARTICIPATION RE-

REVISED (9-6-2): With this change, the rule regarding illegal participation now has been extended to apply to a player who intentionally goes out of bounds and, while out of bounds, affects the play, touches the ball or otherwise participates. Action of this type would now constitute illegal participation and be penalized 15 yards from the basic spot.

PENALTY ADDED FOR VIOLA-

TIONS OF RULE 3-2-2 (9-8-1g(3) NEW): This change stipulates that an unsportsmanlike penalty will be assessed to the head coach for violation of the restrictions contained in Rule 3-2-2.

REMOVAL OF POINT DIFFEREN-

TIAL NOTE (NINE-, EIGHT- AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES): This change removes the provision in the Nine-, Eight- and Six-player rules differences regarding point differential as state association running clock/mercy rules would apply per Rule 3-1-2.

PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2011 NFHS Football Rules Book.
- Request that college and professional football Contest sites mark their fields in accordance with Rule 1-2-3d, in-bounds 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.

PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS (cont'd)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- During any team warm-up periods (prior to game and halftime) teams are to be confined to respective areas between the 45 yard line and the endline. The 10 yard area between each 45 yard lines are not to be used by either team and is to be a "neutral zone/buffer" area which no team personnel should occupy. A team's use of a certain end is to be designated by home game management. This keeps some needed separation between teams and can prevent some unsportsmanlike acts during warm-ups.

COIN TOSS MECHANICS

When the official coin toss is held prior to the game's ceremonial coin toss, officials are to have head coaches and captains together and at this time read/recite verbatim the PIAA Sportsmanship Message to all participants and have the coaches verify the legality of their players' equipment.

The BJ will meet and escort the home team, and the SJ will meet and escort the visiting team from their respective locker rooms, insuring their arrival on the field in time for the second half kickoff.

During this procedure, **The official escorting the team who has the second half choice**, will obtain that team's head coach his decision to receive, kickoff or defend a specific goal. Upon arrival on the field, this information will be communicated to the Referee. The referee will then get the remaining team's appropriate response from the escort of that team.

The teams will deploy directly to their respective kickoff positions.

When ready, the Referee sound the ready-for-play signal for kickoff.

OVERTIME PROCEDURE

1. 3 Minute Intermission
 - a. Communication vital.
 - b. One time-out per-overtime period.
 - c. Penalty carryover.
2. Coin Toss
 - a. Visitor's choice in 1st overtime. (rotate in subsequent OT)
 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.
 - 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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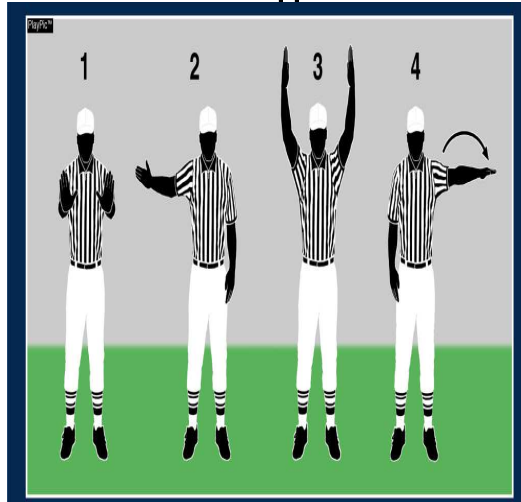
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MECHANICS FOR OVERTIME

1. 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 for 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.

2. Signaling Sequence for Penalties Enforced on Subsequent Kickoff. Signaling Sequence for Penalties Enforced on the Subsequent Kick-off:

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 Lines man in 4-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.

3. NO CHAINS Only down indicator used.

4. SERIES ENDS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION SOUND WHISTLE.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND FOOTBALL HELMET WARNING SIGNS

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 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 has an exterior warning label. Respect for the approved safety standard alone should ensure that nothing but certified helmets are available to be worn. However, the mere 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.

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

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 medial 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.

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT INFORMATION (cont'd)

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.

POINTS OF INTEREST FROM NFHS RULES MEETING

There are three points of interest that are a result of the NFHS Football Rules Interpretation Meeting that are important to emphasize.

1. Sideline interference Rule 9-8-3. The slide in the NFHS Powerpoint is INCORRECT.

This slide should read as follows:

If a player, coach or nonplayer is in restricted zone while the ball is live but does not contact an official, a warning is issued for the first offense. The second instance results in a five yard penalty and the third offense results in a fifteen yard penalty. There is no disqualification of head coach.

2. At the conclusion of the 2011 football season, football helmets that are made in 2002 or older will not be reconditioned or recertified. This may have an impact on school sub-varsity levels and should be indicated to all head coaches attending the mandatory rule interpretation meeting. This policy has been established by the National Athletic Equipment Re-conditioners Association (NAERA). Also NFHS has approved a new football cleat (shoe) called Soft-Spike. If players are wearing the type of football shoe is legal by rule.
3. The one-piece football girdle with pads are built-in are legal. The thickness of the thigh pad has been eliminated from the rule. It is still part of the rule to have players wear pads that completely cover the knee.

These items are important to be emphasized and announced at the Annual Rules Interpretation Chapter Meetings.

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.

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 contests 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.

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 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 may complete the disqualification form online through the officials' information area of the PIAA website. Additionally, officials may email or fax a downloaded copy of the disqualification form. Officials who repeatedly do not file the proper form in the prescribed time period may be suspended.

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.

PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE

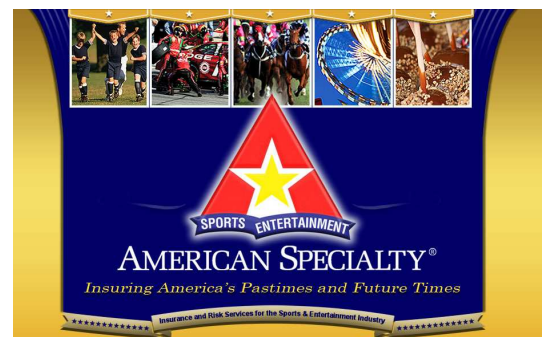
For the 2011-2012 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:

- 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



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.

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.

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.



PIAA 2011-2012 DISTRICT RULES INTERPRETERS

District 1	Gerald DiGiovanni	District 7	Donald R. Woodward
District 2	Paul Sheehan	District 8	David M. Barry
District 3	Jeffrey Woods	District 9	Dennis J. Geitner
District 4	Charles M. Moll	District 10	Jack Thorn
District 5	Gary A. Singel	District 11	Glenn R. Rissmiller
District 6	Richard L. Martin, Jr.	District 12	Mark T. Warner

PIAA 2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date	Monday, August 15
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date.....	Saturday, August 20
First Regular Season Play Date.....	Friday, September 2
Last Regular Season Contest Date	Saturday, November 5
District Championship Deadline	Saturday, November 19
PIAA Football Championships:	
First Round.....	Friday & Saturday, November 25 & 26
Quarterfinals.....	Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3
Semi-Finals	Friday & Saturday, December 9 & 10
PIAA A & AAA Football Championship Finals	
HERSHEYPARK Stadium, Hershey, Friday, December 16	
Championship Schedule:	
A	1:00 pm
AAA	7:00 pm
PIAA AA & AAAA Football Championship Finals	
HERSHEYPARK Stadium, Hershey, Saturday, December 17	
Championship Schedule:	
AA	1:00 pm
AAAA	7:00 pm

GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning. 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 shelter.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play.
 - When thunder is heard, 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. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

As copied from the NFHS 2011 Football Rules Book.

FITNESS AND HEALTH CONDITION

Athletic officiating is a vigorous avocation and it demands that an official be in excellent physical condition, able to give the very best, on every play, in every contest. To that end, the American Medical Association has stated that before one attempts any vigorous physical activity they should first visit their family physician for a check-up. It is part of good personal health maintenance to have an annual physical exam and participate in an exercise program. This type of exercise program should be minimally three days per week and include cardiovascular conditioning, strength training, flexibility and muscle endurance. These components along with proper nutrition will assist in developing one's optimum body composition.

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it. If officials have any chronic health condition, officials are requested to share this information with on site medical personnel at their contest (s).

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.

PLAYER VOMITING

Officials are cautioned to the handling of a player vomiting. The reason for this can be numerous and is not an immediate indicator of a serious injury. If a player is vomiting and this is seen by an official, it would be prudent to request the team's sideline/medical personnel take a look at this player before any official renders a decision upon the players' health status. Allow the medical staff to do what they are trained to do and stay out of making decisions on players of which officials have limited knowledge and history.



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If you are in need of updating your officiating supplies, please be reminded that Officially Sports is the official vendor of PIAA Sport Officials' Uniforms. Please give them your consideration for any purchases regarding officials' supplies. If interested, you may provide them with your email address to send you their catalog, seasonal specials and discounted items that may be of interest and service to your avocation of sports' officiating. Officially Sports may be contacted via email at mjsumpref@aol.com, by calling 800-934-4555 or at www.officiallysports.com.

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).

The alternate uniform as approved the PIAA Board of Directors' are black uniform pants. The policy regarding black uniform pants for PIAA registered football officials is they may be worn only when the officials are wearing long sleeve shirts. Short sleeve uniform shirts are not permitted with black pants. In games played in inclement weather, rain or cold, officials may decide to wear black pants. If wearing black pants all crew members must be wearing long sleeve uniform shirts and dressed alike. Again, short sleeved shirts are not to be worn with black uniform pants.

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).

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,3. 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.

PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE



ALL OFFICIALS MUST READ THIS MESSAGE TO CAPTAINS AND HEAD COACHES PRIOR TO GAMES AT ALL LEVELS.

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..

For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2011-2012 identification cards. 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.

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 set the tone for the contest to be played in the spirit of good sportsmanship and 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.

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.

