

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO PLAY & PIAA RULE ADOPTIONS (REVISED 8/27/11):

Casts (1-5-3b)

Illegal equipment: Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, etc.) on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow or upper arm unless padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½” thick. **Note: as of 2010, there is no longer any requirement for a note from a licensed medical physician (M.D./D.O.).**

Concussions (replaces Unconscious players) (3-5-10b):

Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. **Note: as of 2010, there is no longer any requirement for a note from a licensed medical physician (M.D./D.O.).**

Eye shields (1-5-3c):

Illegal equipment: Eyeshield attached to the helmet that is not: (a) Constructed of a molded rigid material; or (b) Clear without the presence of any tint. **Note: as of 2010, there is no longer any requirement for a note from the principal or his/her designee.**

Memorial Patches (1-5-1-b-5 Note:)

An American flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches and with written state association approval, may be worn on the jersey provided neither the flag nor the patch interferes with the visibility of the number.

Mouthpiece (1-5-1-c-5):

The following pads and protective equipment are required of all players: A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral) which shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion and covers the posterior teeth with adequate thickness. It is recommended the protector be properly fitted and:

(a) Constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual’s teeth, or (b) Constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing the teeth into the tooth and mouth protector itself. (c) The tooth and mouth protector shall be of any readily visible color, and may not be: (1) completely white; or (2) completely clear.

Unless the following procedures are followed:

a. A dentist/doctor must submit a written statement authorizing a student not to use an intraoral 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. [Reference: PIAA notes in Preseason Football '11 Newsletter. For our protection, keep a copy of the authorization.]

Artificial limbs and other medical devices (1-7 Note):

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

2011 PIAA Rules Adoptions/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, 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. [Note: this means that 25 second clocks and microphones will be used if available.]

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 timeout 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 be confined to respective areas between the 45 yard line and the endline. The 10 yard area between each 45 yard lines are not be used by either team and is 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.

PIAA Officials may wear an American flag patch on their uniforms. The patch should be 2 by 3 inches, worn on the right sleeve of their official’s uniform shirt, approximately 3 inches from the shoulder seam.

We use the PIAA’s sportsmanship message to Coaches and Captains.

Issue	Authorization
Casts	No note required
Concussions/unconscious	No note required
Eye shield	No note required
Commemorative patch on jersey	Letter from PIAA
Player not wearing a mouthpiece	Letter from PIAA
Artificial limb or a medical device	Letter from PIAA