

**IMPROPER & ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT**

The NYSPHSAA has advised the NYSACFO that they expect the rules regarding equipment to be appropriately enforced.

The NFHS rules of high school football clearly state how a player is to be legally and properly equipped for a game. Rule 1-5 lists all the player equipment that is mandatory along with a list of legal auxiliary equipment that may be worn if sanctioned by the empire. Rule 1 goes on to list illegal equipment including illegal adornments.

A change for 2023 season involves the elimination of the previous requirement that all towels worn by members of the same team must be the same color now towels can be different colors.

It is important that administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and players have a thorough understanding of Rule 1 and all player equipment requirements.

We continue to experience players and even teams who attempt to participate with their uniforms and or adornment grossly out of compliance with Rule 1-5-2 & 1-5-3. Especially troublesome these days are the players wearing:

* their pants in a manner where the pants are not covering the knees 1-5-1e
* eye shade that is more than the allowable one stroke under each eye 1-5-3c(3)
* wrist brands or bicep bands being worn at the elbow or on the leg 1-5-3a(5)(b)
* play cards not worn on the wrist or arm 1-5-3c(8)
* jerseys that aren't tucked and extending well below the waist of the pants or are so short that they don't reach the top of the pants thus exposing the midriff 1-5-1b(1)
* undershirts that may be a different color and also extend well below the waist of the pants (1-5-3c(5))
* back pads that are not fully covered 1-5-1b(1)

We understand the need to focus on the other nine rules of the game of football, but we are not allowed to just disregard a rule especially one aimed at player safety.

Per 1-5-4, prior to the start of the game, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the referee and another game official that all of his players are legally equipped in compliance of the rules and will use no illegal equipment.

Per 1-5-5, when a player participates or attempts to participate in a game wearing improper equipment, an official timeout will be called, and the player improperly equipped is to be replaced for at least one down unless it was half time or an overtime intermission.

Per 1-5-5 and 9-8-1h, when a player participates in a game wearing illegal equipment, it is an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Foul charged to the head coach and the penalty is 15-yards.