

2024 Football Bulletin 2

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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Thank You!

Officials are commended for your efforts in cleaning up uniforms and formations over the first two weeks of the season. We must continue to enforce these POE's as we move through the season. With your help and focus on these POE's we all will have a successful season.

Weekly Reminders

1. Officials are reminded to READ or have memorized verbatim, the sportsmanship message and read it prior to every game, both Varsity and Sub-Varsity. Do not paraphrase it.
2. Continue to clean up formations. Offensive linemen need to be ON the LOS and backs need to have "space" between them and the nearest teammate that is on the LOS. A player that is neither on nor off the line, known as "NO MANS LAND," has committed an illegal formation foul at the snap.
3. Officials need to continue to officiate after you throw your flag. Get it as close to the spot as possible, if after the play and before you report the foul to your R, readjust the spot if necessary. Get the number of the player that fouled and keep working the play until the ball is dead. It is possible that you would have a second foul on a player. Do you carry a second flag? Second Bean bag?
4. ALL officials should glance at the clock every time the clock is supposed to stop. Fouls, Runner OB, after a Score, etc. Everyone has responsibility that the clock starts and stops properly. 5 seconds in the middle of the 2 qtr. may not seem like a big deal, but at the end of that qtr. might be huge to a team about to score. Own the clocks!
5. Officials should continue to enforce the uniform rules as written. If a team is wearing an illegal Jersey and cannot change prior to the start of the game, penalize according to Rule 9-1-8h. Officials should also be aware when players are not wearing the proper pads required. Examples include but are not limited to, knee, thigh, hip and tail bone pads.

Weekly Reminders Cont.

6. R: When using a field mic, speak in a rhythmic cadence and don't shout. Ex: Holding....Offence, #52...10 yard penalty...second down. Field mics can be sensitive to the volume of your voice, so test it prior to the game. R's should be doing this even when Not Mic'd.

7. Crew: Rules Philosophies: A quick or abrupt movement by any A Player is a False Start. If, in your opinion, the movement simulates the start of the play, rule False Start. All shifts must be done with a smooth & rhythmic movement.

8. Wings: Communication with your Sideline is an essential component to being a good wing official. There is, however, a distinction between good and poor communication. Don't have a running dialogue, answer questions, but ignore statements (unless they require a flag). Show the coaches respect when you engage them and command that same respect from them by your actions and deeds. You can certainly

Game Scenarios

Play 1

A 2/10 A42 During a running play A67 holds B52 and B17 tackles A22 by the face mask. What is play clock Status?

Ruling: Offsetting Fouls Play clock set to 25 and start both clocks on the RFP.

Play 2

A FK @A40, during the kick R blocks below the waist and then the Kick goes OB @B27.

Ruling: Offsetting live ball fouls. A re-kick @ A40. No time should come off the game clock.

Play 3

A 2/5@A45 - A11 drops back to pass, A67's helmet comes completely off as he is pass blocking and there is no foul, a) A67 stops participating in the play once he disengages B55 or b) A67 disengages B55 and takes a few steps and stops but does not continue to participate and c) A67 disengages B55 then blocks B99.

Ruling: Legal in a and b and A67 must leave the game for one down, Illegal Participation in C. 9-6-4g 15 yd Pen. Previous Spot. A67 Must leave the game for one down.

Play 4

A2/5@A45 A11 takes snap and rolls out, a) B55 pursues he is blocked legally by A67 but his helmet comes off, A11 turns up field and B55 pursues and helps make the tackle or b) B55 is blocked by A 67 and his helmet comes off due to illegal helmet contact, A11 turns up field and B55 pursues and helps make the tackle.

Ruling: In a) B55 is guilty of illegal Participation 9-6-4g and must leave the game for one down. In b) A is Guilty of illegal helmet contact and B55 is guilty of Illegal Participation. These fouls offset and B does not have to leave the game due to the helmet coming off due to foul.

Lightning Procedures

All officials are reminded to review the NFHS lightning policy and procedures below. Pay special attention to section #3. These guidelines can be found in the rear of the 2024 NFHS Football Rules Book. These guidelines are not to be ignored. When Lightning is seen or thunder is heard officials must suspend the game, clear the field and start the 30-minute count before resumption of play with no other indications of lightning or thunder or we start the 30-minute count all over again. DO NOT allow the game to continue under pressure from coaches or game management. This is a direct risk management situation that must be followed. Also, officials are NOT to get involved with the decision to cancel/postpone a game. This is left to the Game administrators. If suspender, record time, quarter, possession, down, distance and position of the ball between the hash's.

National Federation of State
High School Associations



GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and 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 activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

PROACTIVE PLANNING

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:
 - a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - d. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.
- * – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.

Revised and Approved March 2018

Training Videos

Training Video#1-<https://youtu.be/aPBite0mpf4>

Training Video#2-<https://youtu.be/01uFaY6T6DM>

