



This PowerPoint presentation from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) covers the following:

- ✓ 2017 NFHS Football Rules Changes-
- ✓ 2017 NFHS Football Editorial Changes-
- ✓ 2017 NFHS Football Points of Emphasis-
- ✓ 2017 NFHS Football Rules Reminders-
- ✓ 2017-18 NFHS Football Information-



National Federation of State
High School Associations



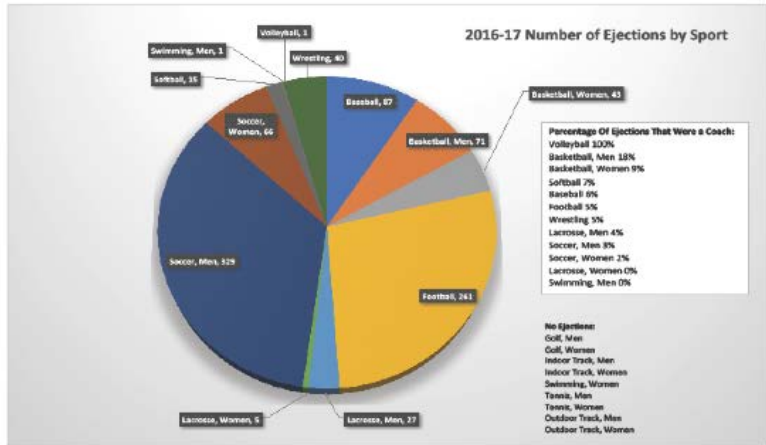
Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

Sportsmanship...Together We Make the Right Call

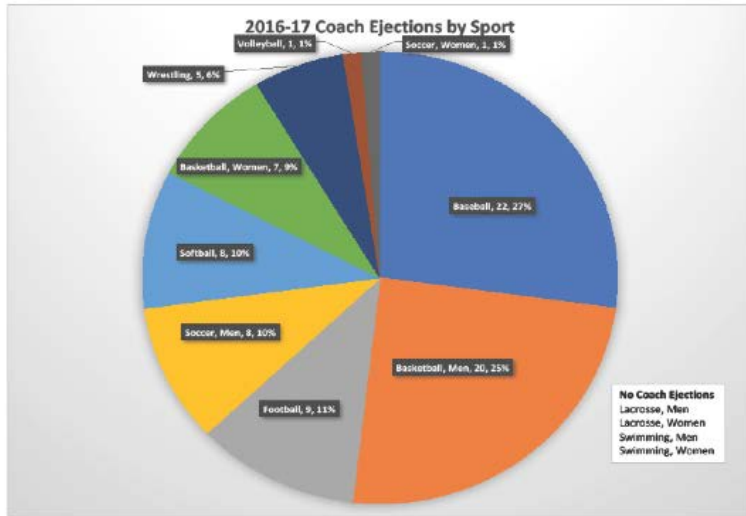
- Zero tolerance regarding profanity/inappropriate language.
- **“One Voice”** – Only the Head Coach has communication with the officials.
 - **Assistant Coaches will be properly penalized and the penalty also is assessed to the Head Coach**
- Positive and effective/professional communication is expected by all parties associated with the game contest.



Inspiring individuals, encouraging excellence through education-based athletics.



Inspiring individuals, encouraging excellence through education-based athletics.



athletics.

PERMISSIBLE ITEMS ON BALLS RULE 1-3-1h (NEW)

The ball may contain only the following permissible items:

Ball manufacturer's name and/or logo;
School name, logo and/or mascot;
Conference name and/or logo;
State association name and/or logos; and
NFHS name and/or logos.



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❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 3 GAME EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . The ball shall meet the following specifications: ...

h. Contain only the following permissible items:

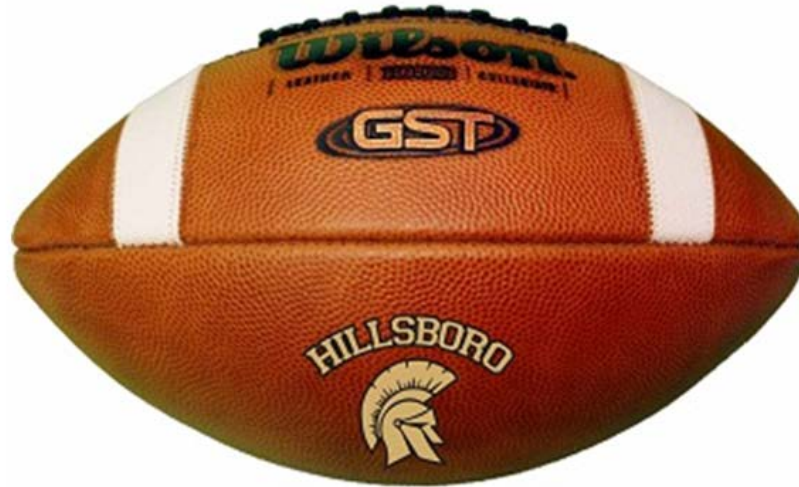
1. Ball manufacturer's name and/or logo;
2. School name, logo and/or mascot;
3. Conference name and/or logo;
4. State association name and/or logos; and
5. NFHS name and/or logos.

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

The ball cannot have commercial advertising added to the surface. The only permissible items on the ball are the ball manufacturer's name and/or logo; school name, logo and/or mascot; conference name and/or logo; state association name and/or logos; and NFHS name and/or logos.



SCHOOL NAME AND LOGO ON FOOTBALL



❖ **Comment on Slide:**

The ball pictured on the slide as shown is legal. An example of a school name and school mascot have been added to the ball and is permissible.



COACHES' VERIFICATION RULES 1-5-1a(2) NOTE; 1-5-4

A crew member other than the umpire may accompany the referee to the pregame meeting with the head coaches, during which the coach verifies his team is legally equipped. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire.



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

2. The helmet shall be secured by a properly fastened chin strap with at least four attachment points.

NOTE: All players shall wear helmets that carry a warning label regarding the risk of injury and a manufacturer's or reconditioner's certification indicating satisfaction of NOCSAE standards. All such reconditioned helmets shall show recertification to indicate satisfaction with the NOCSAE standard. The coach's pregame verification to the referee and another game official that all players are legally equipped and and in compliance with the rules includes the exterior warning label. ...

ART. 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 and in compliance with these rules. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire. ...

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Member state associations may determine the game official who is to accompany the referee during the required pre-game meeting with each head coach.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 1.5.1D, 1.5.1F, 1.5.3D, 1.7A

HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3

- The home jersey is to be a dark color that clearly contrasts with white. The home jersey on the left (A) is currently legal. The home jersey on the right (B) will be illegal when the rule takes effect in 2021.



❖ **Rule Change:**

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

b. Jersey: ...

3. Players of the home team shall wear jerseys, unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, that meet the following criteria: The body of the jersey (inside the shoulders, inclusive of the yoke of the jersey or the shoulders, below the collar, and to the bottom of the jersey) may not include white, except as stated below. Effective 2021, the jerseys of the home team shall be a dark color that clearly contrasts to white. If white appears in the body of the jersey of the home team, it may only appear: ...

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Home game jersey specifications were further revised to provide schools and manufacturers additional clarification regarding the current trend of utilizing lighter gray shades. The implementation date of 2021 affords schools and manufacturers the opportunity to ensure that newer dark-colored jerseys will clearly contrast with white jerseys. The requirement for contrasting colors to white is not a new rule, and this new clarification will allow changes to be made during normal replacement cycles.

Rule Change



HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3



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❖ **Comment on Slide:**

The picture on the slide shows a home jersey that is light gray and that does not clearly contrast with a white visitor jersey. Beginning 2021, the light gray jersey as shown will be illegal as it is not dark enough for a home jersey.

Rule Change



HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3



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❖ **Comment on Slide:**

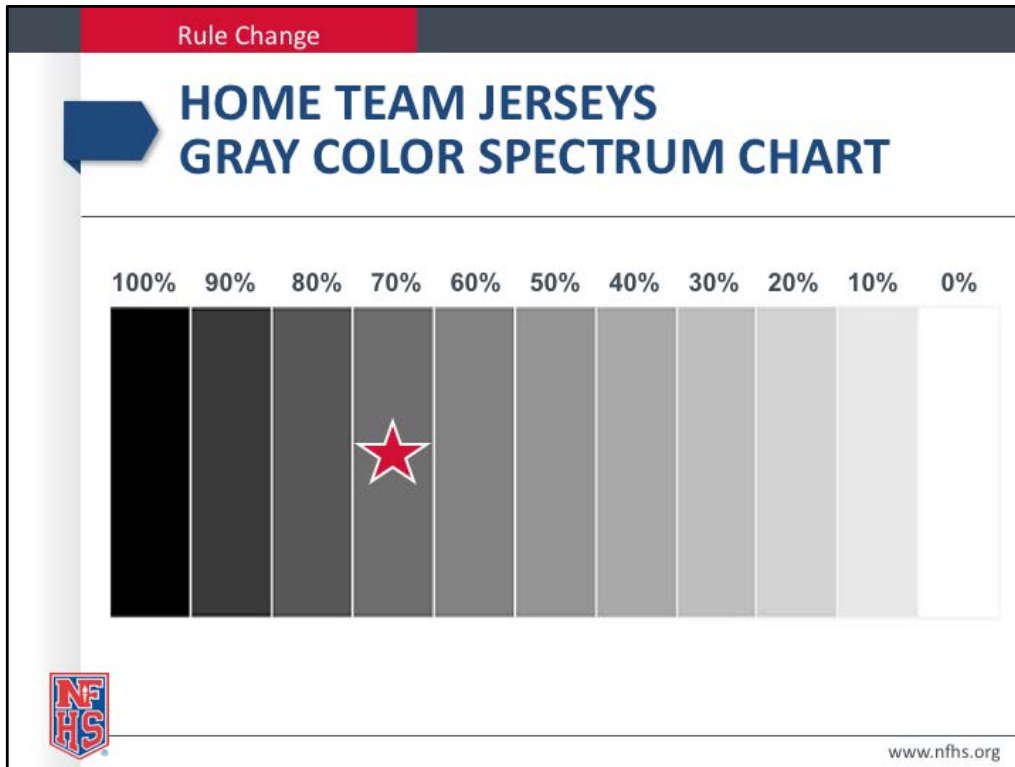
The picture on the slide shows another home jersey that is light gray and that does not clearly contrast with a white visitor jersey. Beginning 2021, the light gray jersey as shown will be illegal as it is not dark enough for a home jersey.

HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3



❖ **Comment on Slide:**

The picture on this slide shows you some sample football jerseys. Jersey A is a legal white visitor jersey. Jerseys B and C are home jerseys that are light gray and that do not clearly contrast with a white visitor jersey. Beginning 2021, Jerseys B and C will be illegal as they both are not dark enough for a home jersey. Jersey D is a legal dark gray home jersey.



❖ **Comment on Slide:**

After meeting with football jersey manufacturers this past April, the NFHS has decided that beginning in 2021, for the color gray and/or any other light colors being used for a home jersey, it cannot go below 70% shading of the main color being used in order for it to clearly contrast with white.



HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3

Beginning with the 2021 season, the home team jerseys in the PlayPic will be illegal. **NOTE:** Rules 1-5-1b(2)e and 1-5-1b(3)e: The visiting team is responsible for avoidance of similarity of colors, but if there is doubt, the referee may require players of the home team to change jerseys.

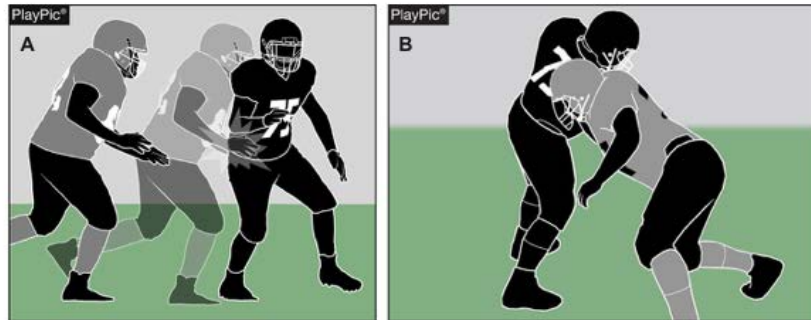


❖ **Comment on Slide:**

See comments on slide.

BLINDSIDE BLOCK RULES 2-3-10 (NEW); 9-4-3n (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY (NEW)

- A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching.



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 3 BLOCKING

ART. 10 . . . A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching.

SECTION 4 ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT

ART. 3 . . . No player or nonplayer shall: ...

- n. Execute a blindside block outside of the free-blocking zone with forceful contact unless initiated with open hands. ...

PENALTY:

Arts. 3a through g, l, n – Other personal fouls – (S38) – 15 yards;

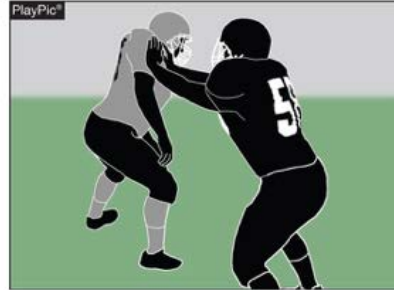
❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Continuing with the focus on risk minimization, the committee created a definition for a blindside block. This block involves contact by a blocker against an opponent who, because of physical positioning and focus of concentration, is vulnerable to injury. Unless initiated with open hands, it is a foul for excessive and unnecessary contact when the block is forceful and outside of the free-blocking zone.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 9.4.3A, 9.4.3 COMMENT, 9.4.3W, 9.4.3X

BLINDSIDE BLOCK RULES 2-3-10 (NEW); 9-4-3n (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY (NEW)

- A blindside block is a block outside of the free-blocking zone against an opponent other than the runner who does not have a reasonable opportunity to see the blocker approaching. As seen in the PlayPic, a blindside block with forceful contact initiated with open hands is legal, inside or outside of the free-blocking zone.



❖ **Comment on Slide:**

See comments on slide.

PURPOSE OF THE RULE

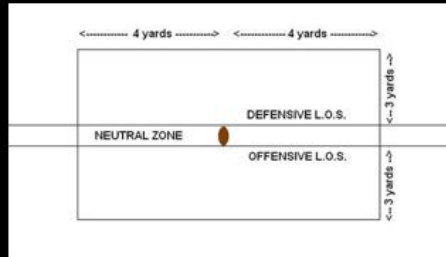
1. Protects the defenseless player receiving a blindside block beyond those blocks determined as unnecessary or excessive
2. Requires that any player receiving a blindside block may only be blocked with open hands
3. Simplifies penalty enforcement for game officials by adding "open hands" when they must judge whether a blindside block was legal or not.





Blocking is an integral part of football

FREE BLOCKING ZONE BLOCKS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THIS RULE
BLOCKS EXECUTED DOWNFIELD OUTSIDE OF THE FREE BLOCKING ZONE WILL BE IMPACTED.



The Free Blocking Zone is temporary. The zone disintegrates once the ball leaves the zone.



NEW SIGNAL

SIGNAL
48

After Personal Foul signal is given the BLINDSIDE BLOCK FOUL WILL BE GIVEN



LEGAL AND ILLEGAL

LEGAL BLINDSIDE BLOCKS

- Stalk Blocking Techniques
- Open Hand Blocking Techniques
- Free Blocking Zone Blocks

ILLEGAL BLINDSIDE BLOCKS

- Shoulder Dip, Drive, Thrust, Launch
- Initial Contact to the Head





BLINDSIDE BLOCK.....

HOW DO COACHES TEACH PLAYERS TO AVOID A BLINDSIDE BLOCK FOUL..

2 KEY POINTS TO TEACH PLAYERS:

1. THE BLOCKER SHOULD HAVE HIS HEAD UP
2. THE BLOCKER SHOULD LEAD WITH THE HANDS



THIS NO LONGER IS A LEGAL BLOCK IF
THE DEFENDER DOES NOT SEE THE
BLOCKER COMING





BLINDSIDE BLOCK VIDEO

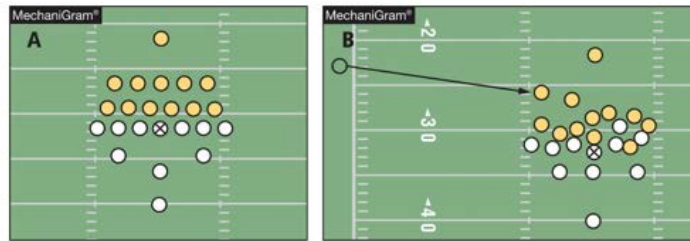
- Go to www.nchsaa.org
- Click on **OFFICIALS**
- Click on **EDUCATION**
- Click on **FOOTBALL**
 - **DROPBOX** for you do download full **BLINDSIDE BLOCK** power point/video



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PSK ENFORCEMENT RULE 2-16-2h

- Illegal substitution and illegal participation fouls by R occurring at the snap (MechaniGram A) are enforced from the previous spot. Illegal participation fouls by team R occurring during the kick (MechaniGram B) are enforced under post-scrimmage kick enforcement.



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❖ Rule Change:

SECTION 16 FOULS AND PENALTIES

ART. 2 . . . Types of fouls are: ...

h. Post-scrimmage kick – a foul by R (other than an illegal substitution or illegal participation foul that occurs at the snap) when the foul occurs:

1. During scrimmage kick plays, other than a try or successful field goal.
2. During a scrimmage kick play in which the ball crosses the expanded neutral zone.
3. Beyond the expanded neutral zone.
4. Before the end of a kick.
5. And K will not be next to put the ball in play. ...

❖ Rationale for Change:

Illegal participation fouls by the receiving team occurring during the kick are now enforced under post-scrimmage kick fouls. Illegal substitution and illegal participation fouls by the receiving team occurring at the snap continue to be enforced from the previous spot.

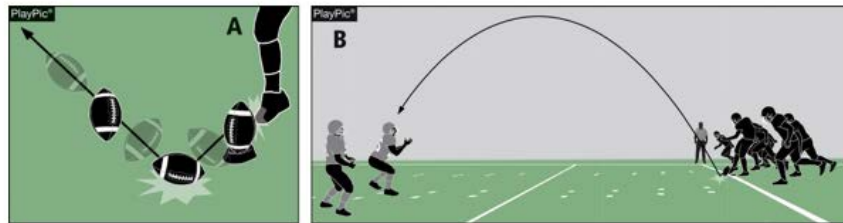
❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 9.6 COMMENT, 9.6.1D

Rule Change

POP-UP KICK

RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately to the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee. Such kicks will be penalized as a dead-ball foul.



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❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 24 KICKS

ART. 10 . . . A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately into the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee.

SECTION 1 THE KICKOFF AND OTHER FREE KICKS

ART. 11 . . . A pop-up kick is illegal.

PENALTY: Arts. 2, 11 – Free-kick infraction – (S7-19) – 5 yards;

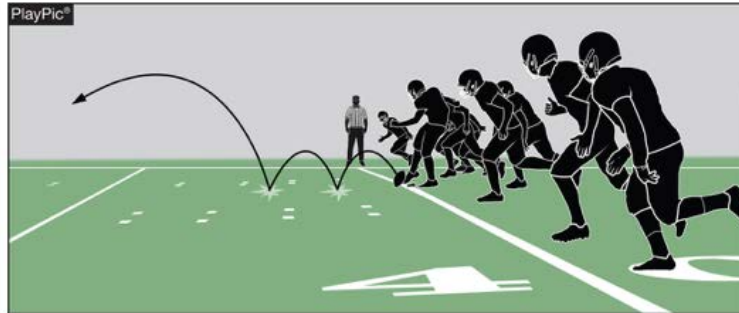
❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Continuing with the committee's efforts to minimize risk, a pop-up kickoff has been defined. A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately to the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee. Such kicks will be penalized as a dead-ball free-kick infraction.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATION 6.1.11

POP-UP KICK RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A kick in which the kicker drives the ball into the ground to create two or three low bounces then one high, arching bounce is legal.



❖ **Comment on Slide:**

See comments on slide.

POP-UP KICK RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A free kick in which the ball is dribbled along the ground is legal.

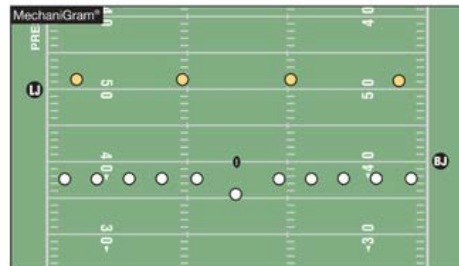


❖ **Comment on Slide:**

See comments on slide.

MECHANICS FOR POP-UP KICKS

- The game official on K's free-kick line (back judge in crew of 5, head linesman in crew of 4) is primary for judging a pop-up kick. The game official on R's free-kick line (line judge in crews of 5 or 4) is secondary.

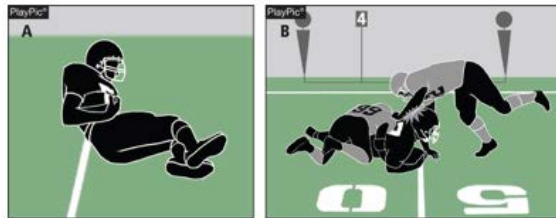


❖ **Comment on Slide:**

The NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Committee approved a new football officiating mechanic for 2017 for the new rule dealing with the pop-up kicks. See comments on slide for the specifics on this new football officiating mechanic.

DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 2-32-16

- A player on the ground including a runner who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first (PlayPic A) and a runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped (PlayPic B), are defenseless players.



❖ Rule Change:

SECTION 32 PLAYER DESIGNATIONS

ART. 16 . . . A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury. A player who initiates contact against a defenseless player is responsible for making legal contact. When in question, a player is defenseless.

Examples of defenseless players include, but are not limited to:

- A player in the act of or just after throwing a pass;
- A receiver attempting to catch a pass who has not had time to clearly become a runner;
- The intended receiver of a pass in the action during and immediately following an interception or potential interception;
- A runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped;
- A kickoff or punt returner attempting to catch or recover a kick, or one who has completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a runner;
- A player on the ground including a runner who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first;
- A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner; and
- A player who receives a blindside block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands. ...

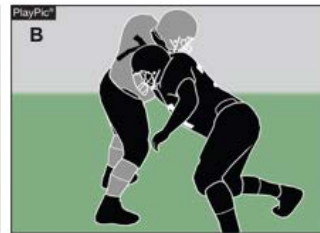
❖ Rationale for Change:

The committee adopted specific examples of a defenseless player. By adding these examples, the committee continues to focus on risk minimization and responded to requests on the annual NFHS football rules questionnaire from participating coaches, game officials and state association representatives.



DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 2-32-16

A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner (MechaniGram A) and a player who receives a blindsided block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands (PlayPic B) are defenseless players.



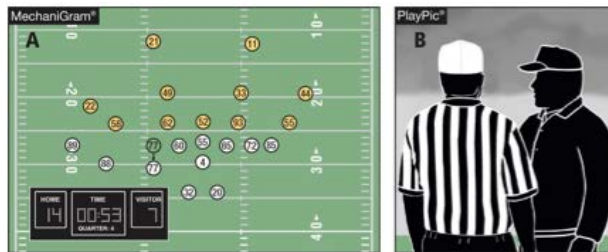
❖ **Comment on Slide:**

See comments on slide.



GAME CLOCK OPTION RULE 3-4-7 (NEW)

- With less than 2 minutes left in the half and the game clock running, A false starts (MechaniGram A). The offended team may choose to start the game clock on the snap (PlayPic B).



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 4 STARTING AND STOPPING THE CLOCK

ART. 7 . . . When a penalty is accepted with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team will have the option to start the game clock on the snap. . .

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

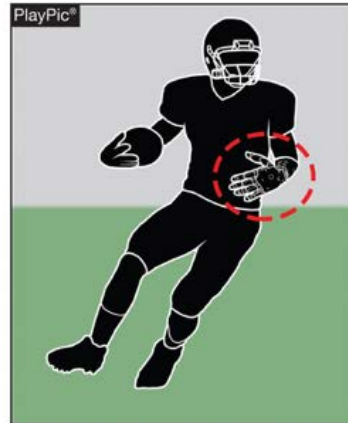
The committee added an option for the offended team on an accepted penalty inside the last two minutes of either half. The referee continues to have the authority to start or stop the clock if a team attempts to conserve or consume time illegally.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 3.3.3D, 3.3.4A, 3.3.4B, 3.4.2A, 3.4.2B, 3.4.2D, 3.4.6 COMMENT, 3.4.7A, 3.4.7B



DEAD BALL, DOWN ENDS RULE 4-2-2I (NEW)

- The player has a prosthetic arm. If the prosthetic limb comes completely off the runner, the ball becomes dead and the down ends.



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 2 DEAD BALL AND END OF THE DOWN

ART. 2 . . . The ball becomes dead and the down is ended: ...

- I. When a prosthetic limb comes completely off the runner.

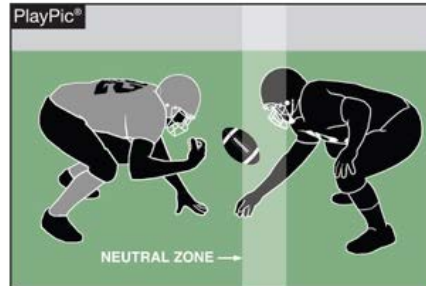
❖ **Rationale for Change:**

With this change, the ball becomes dead when a prosthetic limb comes completely off the runner.



ENCROACHMENT RULE 7-1-6

- After the ready-for-play signal and after the snapper is in contact with the ball, it is encroachment if a defensive player contacts the ball or the snapper's arms or hands until the snap is completed (Rule 2-40).



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 1 BEFORE THE SNAP

ART. 6 . . . Following the ready-for-play and after the snapper has placed his hand(s) on the ball, encroachment occurs if:

- a. Any other player breaks the plane of the neutral zone;
- b. A defensive player makes contact with the ball prior to the end of the snap; or
- c. A defensive player makes contact with the hand(s) or arm(s) of the snapper prior to the snapper releasing the ball. ...

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Defensive players are restricted from contacting the ball or the snapper's hand(s) or arm(s) until the snapper has released the ball.



PASS INTERFERENCE RULE 7-5-10

Face guarding (without contact) in and of itself is no longer considered an act of forward pass interference.



❖ **Rule Change:**

SECTION 5 FORWARD-PASS CLASSIFICATION

ART. 10 . . . It is forward-pass interference if any player of A or B who is beyond the neutral zone interferes with an eligible opponent's opportunity to move toward, catch or bat the pass. ...

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

This change eliminates the previous foul for non-contact face guarding forward-pass interference.



**2017 NFHS
FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**



ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RULES 1-5-3c(2); 1-6-1; 1-6-2

- Electronic signage used to signal plays or other information from the sideline is illegal.



❖ **Editorial Change:**

Rule 1-5-3c(2):

c. The following Other Illegal Equipment: ...

2. Electronic communication devices used to communicate with a player except during an outside 9-yard mark conference (7-yard marks in nine-, eight- and six-player competition), including electronic signage to signal plays or information from the sideline.

Rule 1-6-1:

ART. 1 . . . Electronic communication devices including but not limited to audio recorder, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, mobile phones, still photograph(s), film, analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions, shall not be used to communicate with a player except during an outside 9-yard mark conference (7-yard marks in nine-, eight- and six-player competition).

NOTE: Each state association may authorize the use of a drum by a team composed of deaf or partially deaf players, in order to establish a rhythmic cadence following the ready-for-play signal.

Rule 1-6-2:

ART. 2 . . . Electronic communication devices including but not limited to audio recorder, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, mobile phones, still photograph(s), film, analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions may be used by coaches and nonplayers.

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

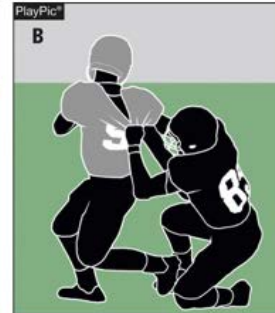
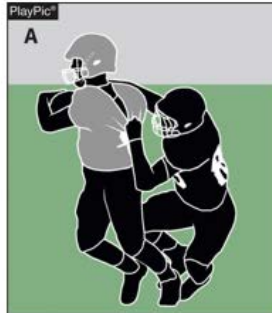
Further clarifies the intent of Rules 1-5-3c(2), 1-6-1 and 1-6-2 with regards to electronic communication being used during a game.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATION 1.6.1E



ILLEGAL HORSE-COLLAR TACKLE RULE 9-4-3K

- No player or nonplayer shall grab the inside back or side collar of either the shoulder pads or the jersey of the runner and subsequently pull that opponent to the ground.



❖ **Editorial Change:**

Rule 9-4-3K:

k. Grab the inside back or side collar of either the shoulder pads or the jersey of the runner and subsequently pull (backward or sideward) that opponent to the ground (Horse-collar), even if possession is lost. The horse-collar foul is enforced as a live-ball foul.

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

Further clarifies the intent of Rule 9-4-3K.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 9.4.3M-R



2017 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

Facilities Statement	A new statement from the NFHS on facilities used for high school athletics was added to the front of the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book.
1-3-2	Deleted “game” before “ball.”
1-5-1a(1), 1-5-1a(2) NOTE, 1-5-2b, 1-5-3b(6)	Deleted “test” before “standard.”
1-5-5	Added new rules references.
2-5-3	Deleted Article 3.
2-41-3	Updated the rules reference to Rule 5-3-4 in the EXCEPTION.
2-41-5	Added new rules references.



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❖ **Slide Comment:**

This slide lists the rules references and a brief description of the football editorial changes that were made to the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book.



2017 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-4-8	Previous Article 7 became a new Article 8.
3-5-7f	Deleted "game" before "ball."
3-5-8b(2)	Added a hyphen to "time-out."
3-5-10b, c	Removed the page numbers for the Appendix reference.
4-2-2k	Clarified when the helmet comes completely off the runner.
7-5-6a	Changed "include" to "including."



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❖ **Slide Comment:**

This slide lists the rules references and a brief description of the football editorial changes that were made to the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book.



2017 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

9-3 PENALTY	Changed the official signal to (S30) for blocking a kicker or place-kicker holder.
9-8-1h	Added new rules references.
10-5-1c	Changed rules reference.
FOOTBALL FUNDAMENTALS – VI-2	Further clarified a scrimmage kick on a try.
PENALTY SUMMARY	Updated rules references and added “Blindside Block” and “Hurdle an Opponent” to the PENALTY SUMMARY.
INDEX	Added “Blindside Block” and Pop-up kick” to the Index.



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❖ **Slide Comment:**

This slide lists the rules references and a brief description of the football editorial changes that were made to the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book.



**2017 NFHS
FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**





The slide features a header with a red and grey bar. Below the bar is a blue arrow pointing right. The title "2017 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS" is centered in blue. A list of four points is centered in black. The NFHS logo is in the bottom left, and the website "www.nfhs.org" is in the bottom right.

2017 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Responsibility on Players to Avoid Illegal Contact
2. Illegal Helmet Contact
3. Sideline Management and Control, Professional Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials
4. Proper Enforcement of Penalties for Violations of the Equipment Rules



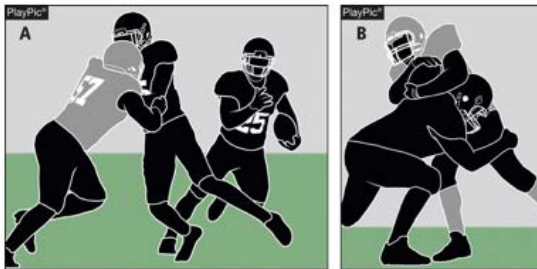
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❖ **Comment on Slide:**

The following football points of emphasis were selected by the NFHS Football Rules Committee for the 2017 high school football season. These four football points of emphasis need to be stressed to all coaches, game officials, players, parents, school administrators, appropriate health-care professionals and all others who have an interest in high school football.

RESPONSIBILITY ON PLAYERS TO AVOID ILLEGAL CONTACT

While it is imperative for coaches to continue teaching players how to avoid illegal contact, players are ultimately responsible for using legal blocking (PlayPic A) and tackling (PlayPic B) techniques.

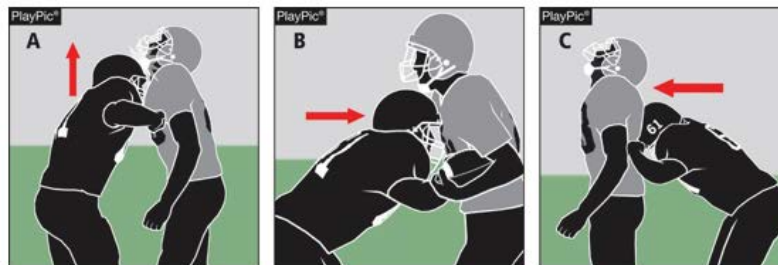


Responsibility on Players to Avoid Illegal Contact (Point of Emphasis):

With a continued emphasis on minimizing risk in high school football, it is imperative for coaches to continue educating their student-athletes regarding the importance and responsibility of avoiding illegal contact. With the recent implementation of NFHS football rules prohibiting targeting, illegal contact on defenseless players, illegal blindside blocks, illegal pop-up kicks and other illegal personal contact fouls, the NFHS is reiterating its focus on player safety. Players are ultimately responsible for using legal blocking and tackling techniques, and coaches have a responsibility to emphasize the use of legal contact. Therefore, unnecessary contact with opponents who are clearly out of the play, or contact that is excessive and unnecessary, have no place in the game of football. These unnecessary hits are unsafe acts and the techniques cannot be tolerated by those responsible for the game of football. Coaches need to exercise leadership in eliminating illegal contact and game officials must act decisively to penalize illegal contact to minimize the risk of injury to players.

ILLEGAL HELMET CONTACT

One of the biggest steps in reducing injuries is eliminating direct helmet-to-helmet contact and any other contact both with and to the helmet. Butt blocking (PlayPic A), face tackling (PlayPic B) and spearing (PlayPic C) are illegal.



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Illegal Helmet Contact (Point of Emphasis):

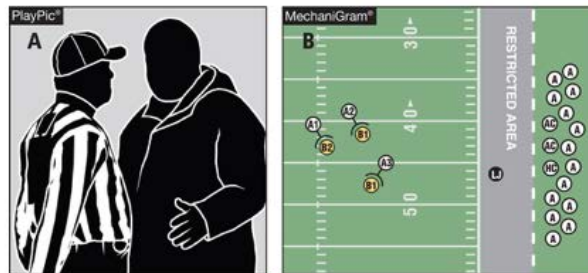
While wearing a football helmet can never guarantee the elimination of head and neck injuries, coaches at all levels of football have increased their focus on reducing these types of injuries as much as possible. One of the biggest efforts in this endeavor is to eliminate direct helmet-to-helmet contact and to minimize any other contact both with and to the helmet.

Coaches and game officials must continue to be diligent in promoting the elimination of direct contact to and with the helmet through consistent adherence to proper and legal coaching techniques and through strict enforcement of playing rules and game administration.

The No. 1 responsibility for game officials must be player safety. Any initiation of contact with the helmet is illegal; therefore, these fouls must be penalized consistently and without warning. Player safety is simply a matter of attitude, technique, attention and supervision. Proper coaching techniques and consistent enforcement of illegal helmet contact by game officials will be a positive step toward reinforcing player safety.

SIDELINE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND GAME OFFICIALS

Effective enforcement of sideline rules begins with respectfully communicating expectations before the game (PlayPic A). Game officials are expected to enforce rules regarding the coaches area (MechaniGram B).



Sideline Management and Control, Professional Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials (Point of Emphasis):

Sideline management and consistent enforcement of the rules pertaining to the restricted area and the team box continue to be an issue in many areas of the country. The restricted area is the area extending two yards outside the perimeter of the entire field (i.e., outside both sidelines and end lines). This restricted area is designated by the restraining line. The team box is the area immediately outside the restricted area between the 25-yard lines on each side of the field. With limited exceptions, nonplayers are not permitted in the restricted area at any time during the game. Nonplayers include coaches, team personnel, spectators, game administrators and members of the media. During a dead-ball interval, no more than three coaches are permitted in the restricted area directly in front of the team box. No one may be in the restricted area when the ball is live.

The restricted area is designated to make the sidelines safer for everyone and to allow game officials ample room to work. If the restricted area is not clearly delineated or not enforced by game administration, coaches or game officials, individuals in the restricted area are at risk for injury during or after a play.

Game administration is required to enforce the restricted area beyond the boundaries of the team boxes. No one should be in this area including media, photographers, statisticians, school boosters, cheer squads, pep bands, security personnel and medical staff.

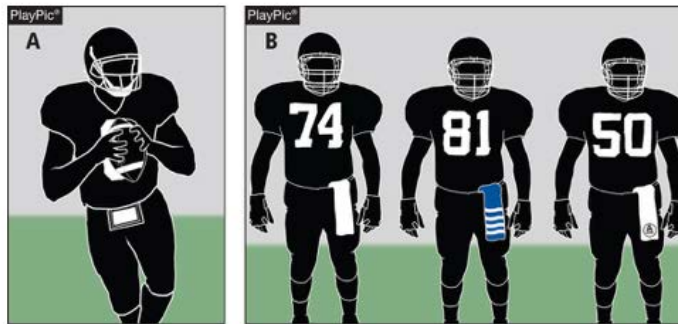
Coaches are encouraged to instruct team personnel of the parameters and boundaries of the team box, and to effectively communicate the requirements to stay in the team box at all times. Coaches are also required to remain outside the restricted area when the ball is live, and no more than three coaches are in the coaches' area when the ball is dead.

Game officials must consistently enforce the rules pertaining to the coaches' area and restricted area and other sideline violations that occur during the game. Effective enforcement begins with respectfully communicating expectations to coaches and game administration prior to the start of the game. Violations of the restricted area should immediately result in the beginning of the progression of the penalties prescribed in Rule 9-8. Violations of the unsportsmanlike conduct rules should immediately result in a 15-yard penalty and a disqualification of the offender if flagrant, or if it is the offender's second such foul. Examples of such conduct include the actions listed in Rule 9-8-1. A coach or a nonplayer on the field of play is enforced as an unsportsmanlike conduct foul rather than a violation of the restricted area.

Coaches, game administration and game officials are reminded that the primary purpose of high school activities is to teach student-athletes how to become responsible adults. All adults involved in a contest should recognize they are teacher-coaches and teacher-officials, and that their use of professional and courteous communication sets a positive example for the student-athletes to follow, and is crucial in creating an optimal and meaningful learning environment. Game officials and coaches should always work together in a professional manner to ensure all rules are communicated, understood and enforced.

PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF EQUIPMENT RULES

- Examples of illegal equipment include play cards not worn on the wrist or arm (PlayPic A) and towels that are not the same solid color (PlayPic B).



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Proper Enforcement of Penalties for Violations of Equipment Rules (Point of Emphasis):

All players are required to wear properly fitted equipment and uniforms that are worn in the manner intended by the manufacturer, as specified in the rules. The purpose of equipment rules is to promote the safety and protection of both the player wearing the equipment and his opponent. Players may not wear any equipment/adornments that are deemed illegal. In addition, it is the responsibility of head coaches to ensure players have been issued properly fitted equipment and have been instructed in its proper use and verify this requirement to game officials prior to each contest. Due to the potential for injury, game officials must strictly enforce equipment and uniform rules.

There are three types of fouls associated with improper equipment: (1) failure to properly wear required equipment, (2) failure to wear or use legal and/or required equipment, and (3) wearing illegal equipment. The first foul occurs when the required equipment is present, but is not worn properly. The penalty for this foul is a 5-yard penalty, and it can be either a dead-ball foul (if the foul occurs when the snap is imminent) or a live-ball foul (if a player is observed removing or discarding required equipment during a down). Examples of such fouls include, but are not limited to, unsnapped chin straps, tooth and mouth protectors that are dangling, or jerseys that do not fully cover the shoulder pads. If game officials observe any improperly worn equipment during a dead-ball period, they should use preventive officiating and tell the player to make a correction. However, if the snap is imminent and equipment is not properly worn, the game official should blow the whistle to prevent the snap from occurring and a dead-ball foul should be called. The second foul occurs when a player is missing any required equipment. That foul is an unsportsmanlike conduct foul charged to the head coach (Rule 9-9). The third foul occurs when a player wears illegal equipment. Examples of this type of foul include, but are not limited to, the wearing of cleats that exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or the presence of a sticky substance on a player's uniform. If a player is detected wearing illegal equipment, his head coach is charged with an unsportsmanlike conduct foul under Rule 9-9.

If any equipment becomes illegal or defective during the game, correction must be made before the player continues to participate. Examples include chin strap snaps which break off of the helmet or a jersey that slides up over the top of the shoulder pad. If the correction can be made within 25 seconds and without the assistance of a team attendant, an official's time-out may be called to perform such correction. Alternatively, a team may request a charged time-out to perform the correction. However, if correction cannot be completed within 25 seconds, or during a charged time-out, the player may not continue to participate until correction is made.



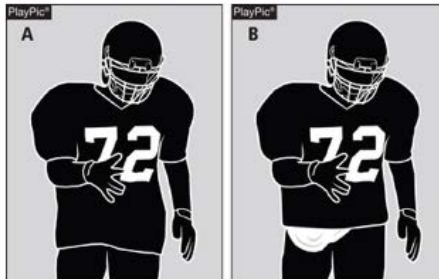
**2017 NFHS
FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS**





PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

These jerseys are illegal. In PlayPic A, the jersey is longer than the top of the pants; thus it must be tucked in. In PlayPic B, the shirt beneath the jersey and the jersey must be tucked in.



❖ **Rules Reminder:**

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

b. Jersey:

1. A jersey, unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, and which shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer. It must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist on the torso.

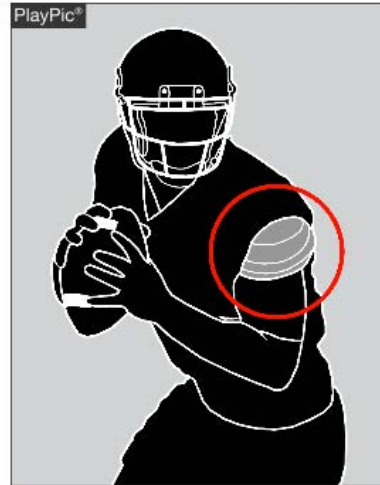
❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATION 1.5.1B

See Comment on Slide.



EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

- Shoulder pads and hard surface auxiliary attachments must be completely covered by a jersey.



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❖ Rules Reminder:

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

b. Jersey:

1. A jersey, unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, and which shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer. It must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist on the torso.

❖ Comment on Slide:

Further clarifies the intent of Rule 1-5-1b(1) that the jersey must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist on the torso.

ILLEGAL FOOTBALL JERSEY (SHOULDER PAD NOT COVERED)



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❖ **Rules Reminder:**

❖ **Comment on Slide:**

Illegal football jersey by rule as the shoulder pad is not completely covered by the gray jersey.



EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

- Back pads and hard surface auxiliary attachments must be completely covered by a jersey. Jerseys shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer.



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❖ Rules Reminder:

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

b. Jersey:

1. A jersey, unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, and which shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer. It must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist on the torso.

❖ Comment on Slide:

Further clarifies the intent of Rule 1-5-1b(1) that the jersey must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist on the torso.

ILLEGAL FOOTBALL JERSEY AND PANT (BACK PAD AND KNEES NOT COVERED)



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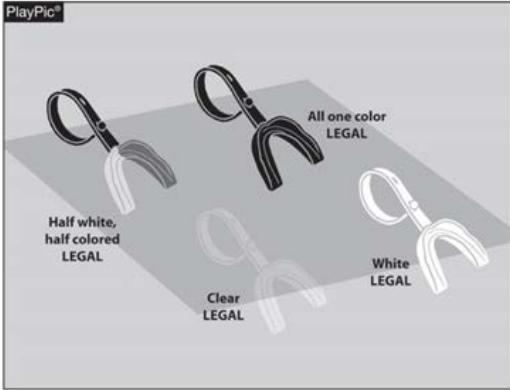
❖ Rules Reminder:

❖ Comment on Slide:

Illegal football jersey (Visiting Team) as the back pad is not completely covered by the white jersey. Illegal football pant (Home Team) as the blue football pant does not completely cover the knees.

TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS RULE 1-5-1d(5)a

- Tooth and mouth protectors that are completely clear or completely white are legal.



The diagram illustrates four types of legal tooth and mouth protectors. Each protector is shown with its corresponding label: 'Half white, half colored LEGAL' (a protector with a white front and a colored back), 'All one color LEGAL' (a protector entirely in one color), 'Clear LEGAL' (a completely transparent protector), and 'White LEGAL' (a completely white protector). The protectors are shown from a top-down perspective, highlighting their U-shaped design with a central opening for the teeth.

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❖ **Rules Reminder:**

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection: ...

d. Pads and Protective Equipment – The following pads and protective equipment are required of all players: ...

5. (a) A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral) which shall:

- (1) include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) portion;
- (2) include a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion; and
- (3) cover the posterior teeth with adequate thickness.

(b) It is recommended that the protector be properly fitted, protecting the anterior (leading) dental arch and:

- (1) constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual's teeth, or
- (2) constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing the teeth into the tooth and mouth protector itself.

❖ **Comment on Slide:**

In 2016, completely clear or completely white tooth and mouth protectors were made legal for play. Tooth and mouth protectors shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) portion and include a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATION 1.5.1E

GLOVES RULES 1-5 NOTE, 1-5-2b

- Gloves are now required to carry either the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) seal (PlayPic A) or the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) seal (PlayPic B). The seals must be visible and appear legibly on the exterior wrist opening of the glove.

PlayPic A

PlayPic B

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❖ **Rules Reminder:**

SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

NOTE: As mentioned in Section 5, under Player Equipment, NOCSAE refers to the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment and SFIA refers to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

ART. 2 . . . The following auxiliary equipment may be worn if sanctioned by the umpire as being soft, nonabrasive, nonhardening material:

- a. Forearm pads, which may be anchored on each end with athletic tape.
- b. Gloves, which may be anchored with athletic tape, and even though modified, must meet the NOCSAE standard or the SFIA specification at the time of manufacture, unless made of unaltered plain cloth. Gloves, unless made of unaltered plain cloth, must have a permanent, exact replica of the NOCSAE glove seal (Meets NOCSAE Standard) or SFIA glove seal (Meets SFIA Specification), that must be visible and appear legibly on the exterior wrist opening of the glove.

NOTES:

1. A glove is a covering for the hand having separate sections for each finger. Pads worn on the hand, but not having separate sections encircling at least part of any finger are not gloves. The thumb is not considered a finger.
2. Non-athletic gloves, worn solely for warmth and made of unaltered plain cloth, and which do not enhance contact with the ball, do not require a label or stamp indicating compliance.

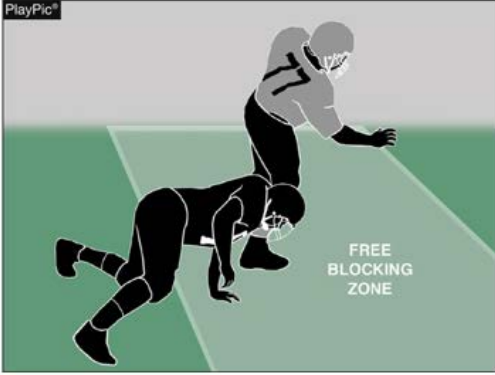
❖ **Comment on Slide:**

All Football gloves are now required to meet either the new SFIA specification or the existing NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATION 1.5.2A

CLIPPING RULES 2-17, 9-3-6, 9-3 PENALTY

- The exception that allowed clipping in the free-blocking zone has been eliminated.



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❖ **Rules Reminder:**

SECTION 17 FREE-BLOCKING ZONE – LEGAL BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST AND LEGAL BLOCK IN THE BACK

ART. 4 . . . The free-blocking zone disintegrates and the exception for a player to block below the waist and/or the exception for an offensive lineman to block in the back is not to continue after the ball has left the zone.

SECTION 3 ILLEGAL BLOCKING

ART. 6 . . . A player shall not chop block or clip.

PENALTY:...Art. 6 – Clipping – (S39) – 15 yards;

❖ **Comment on Slide:**

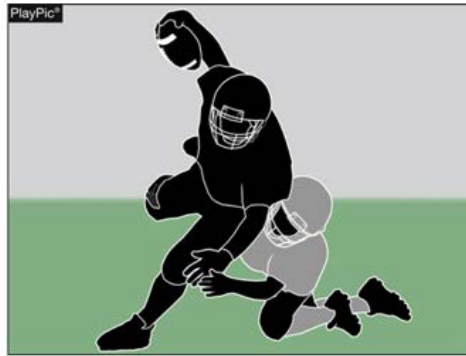
In a continued effort to minimize risk, the Committee in 2016 made clipping in the free-blocking zone illegal.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 9.3.6A-B



CLIPPING RULES 2-17, 9-3-6, 9-3 PENALTY

- It is still legal to clip a player who is a runner or is pretending to be a runner.



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❖ **Rules Reminder:**

See comments on slide.



**2017 NFHS
FOOTBALL INFORMATION**





**2017 NFHS
OFFICIALS EDUCATION**



NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB

<https://nfhs-football.arbitersports.com/front/105409/Site>

- Contains:
 - Sport information
 - Rules information
 - Rules library
 - Searchable rules book
 - Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations



NFHS FOOTBALL OFFICIATING SIDELINE

Search []

Football Rules Information

2015 Football Rules Interpretations
Comments on the 2015 Football Rule Changes
2015 Football Rules Changes
High School Football Rules Changes Continue Focus on Rule Identification

Football Resources

2015 Official Football Signals
2015 Football Line to go and Tether Instructions
2015 Football Jersey Rules
2015 Football Points of Emphasis

Welcome

2015/11/11

Bob Cigala
NFHS Director of Sports and Sports Medicine

Sport Specific Information

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Wrestling

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❖ Comment on Slide:

See comments on slide.

COACHING FOOTBALL

Course Objectives

- Proper hand positioning for catching the ball
- Identify drills for teaching safe tackling techniques
- Teach fundamental Quarterback skills – proper stances, footwork, controlling the snap, securing the ball, drop back and passing
- Teach fundamental Running Back skills – proper stances, taking the handoff, pass protection blocking, route running and receiving
- Teach fundamental Wide Receiver and Tight End skills – proper stances, routes, running and blocking
- Teach Tight End and Offensive Linemen blockings skills – drive block, combination block, double team block and pass rushing blocking
- Teach fundamental Special Teams skills – kickoff technique, cover team, return specialist, extra point and punting

Units

- All Player Skills
- Offensive Team Skills
- Defensive Team Skills
- Special Teams



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❖ Comment on Slide:

About: Coaching Football developed by USA Football in partnership with the NFHS, provides a student-centered curriculum in essential football coaching techniques and methods for interscholastic teacher/coaches. This course provides demonstration and teaching tips for each offensive and defensive position and shares practical methods for increasing student participation through effective feedback and stress reduction. Coaches who complete this course receive a one-year membership to USA Football that includes \$1 million of general liability insurance.

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THANK YOU

National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, IN 46206

Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317.822.5700

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Football: Important Dates

First Practice:	July 31 st
First Scrimmage:	August 9 th
First Contest:	August 18 th
Seeding:	November 4 th
State Championships:	December 8-9

UNC, NC State University, Wake Forest University, Duke University



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Practice Options

- Practice Options: There are set practice options that can be utilized during the football preseason period:
- Option A - One, three hour practice (which includes “flex time”).
- Option B - One, three hour practice, followed by a mandatory three hour cool down period, followed by a one hour walk-through.
- Option C (Double Practice) - One three-hour, or two-hour practice, followed by a mandatory three-hour cool down period, followed by a two-hour, or three-hour practice (Maximum of five hours of practice time per 24-hour period).
 - Option C days must be followed by Option A, Option B, or off-day
 - Under no circumstances may you have back-to-back Option C days
 - Under no circumstances can the two-hour session of Option C contain any body-to-body contact (Live Action, Thud, and Control).
- The mandatory cool-down period must be held in an air-conditioned environment.



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2017 NCHSAA Football Conditioning Calendar

August, 2017							Pre-Season Conditioning Calendar							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	July 31 1st Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B	August 1 2nd Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B	August 2 3rd Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B	August 3 4th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B	August 4 5th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B	August 5 6th Day of Practice (1st Day of Contact) • Option A or • Option B or • Option C		August 6 No Practice Allowed	August 7 7th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B or • Option C	August 8 8th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B or • Option C	August 9 9th Day of Practice (1st Scrimmage Date) • Option A or • Option B or • Option C	August 10 10th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B or • Option C	August 11 11th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B or • Option C	August 12 12th Day of Practice • Option A or • Option B or • Option C
	August 13 No Practice Allowed	August 14 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 15 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 16 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 17 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 18 1st Playing Date	August 19 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 20 No Practice Allowed	August 21 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 22 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 23 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 24 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 25 2nd Playing Date	August 26 In-Season Practice • Option A Only
	August 27 No Practice Allowed	August 28 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 29 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 30 In-Season Practice • Option A Only	August 31 In-Season Practice • Option A Only									

*Option A - One, 3 hour practice (which includes "flex time")
 *Option B - One, 3 hour practice, followed by a MANDATORY 1 hour cool down period, followed by a 1 hour walk-through, or vice-versa (cannot wear protective equipment during walk-through).
 *Option C (Double Practice) - One 3 hour or 2 hour practice, followed by a MANDATORY 3 hour cool down period, followed by a 2 hour or 3 hour practice (Maximum of 5 hours of practice time per 24 hour period). These can never be back-to-back days with an option C practice. You must follow an option C practice with an option A/B practice on an off-day. ***The 2 hour practice must be NON-CONTACT ONLY***
 *Day 1&1 - Headgear, T-Shirts, Non-Padded Shorts, Football Shoes
 *Day 3-5 - May add shoulder pads
 *Day 6 - Full football gear

Heat & Humidity

The following should be considered when scheduling practice:

- ✦ Time of day
 - ✦ Intensity level of practice
 - ✦ Equipment worn
 - ✦ Environmental conditions
- ✦ High Temperature and high humidity create a dangerous situation for athletes. High humidity and low temperature can also cause serious heat-related problems.
 - ✦ Water/fluid replacement breaks recommended each 20 or 30 minutes. (depending on practice conditions)
 - ✦ Check with your AD on your LEA's and school's policy pertaining to practice on days of extreme heat.



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Heat & Humidity - Wet Bulb Globe Temperature

- WBGT readings must be taken by the AT/FR or designee not more than 30 minutes before the beginning of practice. Subsequent readings must be taken whenever water/rest breaks are taken or every 30 minutes, whichever comes first.
- Added language to the WBGT Index and Athletic Activity Chart in the 90 or Above category for Athletic Activity Guidelines: **SUSPEND PRACTICE/MUST INCLUDE MANDATORY BREAKS AS DIRECTED BY GAMEDAY ADMINISTRATOR DURING CONTEST.**



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8-Quarter Rule

- 1A/2A – 10 Athletes Total
- 3A/4A – 5 Athletes Total

- Athletes CANNOT participate in 3 games in a calendar week
 - Monday – Saturday
 - Postponements to Monday, 8-quarter Thursday/Friday

- Athletes MUST be examined after conclusion of JV game and Pre-Participation paperwork MUST be signed/date by all parties each week and shared with Conference Administrators



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Skill Development

- Schools must select Option A or Option B, but if no decision is made by **November 3, 2017**, the default is option A.
- Option A: From May 7 to the time prior to the state mandated exam period, a school may conduct ten (10) days of football skill development sessions with an unlimited number of players.
- These sessions are subject to the following provisions:
 - No skill development on Memorial Day
 - 2.5 hour limit (including flex time - stretching and cool-down)
 - Monday through Friday (Saturdays within the established 10 day skill development period may be used as make-up days)
 - Licensed athletic trainer or first responder must be present
 - No "body-to-body contact, live action, wrapping, or thudding is allowed (see 4.5.2.b.4).
 - Any student-athlete still involved in a spring sport will not be allowed to participate until the end of that sport's season
 - No other skill development sessions, in football, are allowed during the school year
- Option B: Schools may do skill development with a maximum of twenty-one (21) athletes per day after the football season has been completed and outside of the established dead periods.
 - The regulations currently in place for other sports will apply for this option.
 - No "body-to-body contact, live action, wrapping, or thudding is allowed (see 4.5.2.b.4).



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**NCHSAA Board Changes
2017-18**

Amateur Rule

- Increased allowable merchandise to be received from \$20.00 to \$250.00 per sports season
- Acceptance of money or a forbidden award will cause an athlete to lose athletic eligibility for the semester in which the violation occurred, and the following semester.



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Senior Exceptions

- Students may be allowed to wear school uniforms, including protective equipment, in outside organization competition, so long as the student has exhausted athletic eligibility in that sport and received permission from the member school. Approval from the LEA is strongly recommended.
- Exception to the numbers restrictions for students who have exhausted their eligibility in that sport. Dead period rules will remain.



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Transfer Rule

- Students transferring to a member school where the student's coach has relocated to within a year will be deemed ineligible for a period of 365 days LEA to LEA
- A student's first transfer after initial entry into the 9th grade is not subject to the NCHSAA transfer rule (LEA to LEA). For any transfer thereafter, the student must sit out for 2 consecutive semesters (at least 50% of the current semester + following semester) or 365-days, whichever is less.



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Transfer Rule

- NCHSAA Transfer Committee will be composed of the NCHSAA Executive Committee and at least one (1) non-district affiliated member.
- Modified initial entry interpretation for non-district affiliated schools (Charter and Non-Boarding Parochial) –Rule 1.2.1(a)(2): boundary criteria shall only apply after initial entry into ninth grade.
- Students who want to participate in cheerleading are not subject to the transfer policy, however all current eligibility requirements would remain applicable.



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Residence Rule

- Separate Parents with No Court-Ordered Custody Agreement
 - Residency shall be deemed to be with the parent with whom the student begins the school year (i.e. 1st semester).
- Bona Fide Change: The change must not be solely made for athletics purposes.



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Endowment Games

- The home team will remit twenty-five (25) percent of the gross revenue to the NCHSAA's endowment fund. If a member school plays an endowment game against a non-member school, the member school is responsible for remitting payment to the NCHSAA regardless of where the game is played.



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Facilities

- The NCHSAA has the right to require host teams to find an adequate facility based on expected game/contest attendance and/or quality of venue.



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Eligibility Summary Submission Dates

- Fall – September 15th
- Winter – December 15th
- Spring – April 1st



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Coaches' Education

CPR/AED Certification

- All head and paid coaches must be CPR/AED certified

NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course

- All non-paid coaches are required to complete the NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course annually (*after June 1, 2017 and before the first date of practice*).
 - Effective August 1, 2017



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Skill Development/Dead Periods

- Changed In-season dead periods from 6 weeks to 3 weeks
 - Option B
- Added new dead period:
 - Last 10 student days of the school year
 - Effective 2017-2018



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Playoff Bracket Size

- Change bracket sizes for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball to:
 - 1A – 48 teams
 - 2A – 64 teams
 - 3A – 64 teams
 - 4A – 48 teams
- Football will still be subdivided 1A/1AA, 2A/2AA, 3A/3AA, 4A/4AA



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Playoff Qualification Process

- Conference automatic qualifiers are determined by the number of teams from a given classification in each conference as follows:
 - 1 – 4 teams = 1 automatic qualifier
 - 5 – 8 teams = 2 automatic qualifiers
 - 9 or more teams = 3 automatic qualifiers



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Playoff Qualification Process

- Split conference application
 - The highest finishing team from a given classification will automatically qualify, regardless of overall conference finish.
 - Two teams that finish 1st and 2nd overall in the conference from the same classification will automatically qualify regardless of rule 4.1.18(a) (1-3).
 - **Ties for 1st place in the overall conference or for highest finisher in a classification must be broken using the established tie-breaking procedure [rule 4.1.13].



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Playoff Qualification Process

- If too many teams qualify using the above criteria, adjustments to the established bracket size will be made to accommodate the automatic qualifiers.
- If not enough teams qualify using the above criteria, the bracket will be filled by non-automatic qualifiers in that classification
 - Teams in their classification with the highest MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system) will be selected to fill the remaining slots in the bracket.



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Playoff Seeding

- Once the qualifying teams in each classification are determined, they will be divided into two regions of equal size (East and West) based on the longitude of each school.
- The teams in each region will be seeded as follows:
 - Seed all 1st place automatic berths and highest finishing team in each classification of a split conference by MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all 2nd place automatic berths by MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all 3rd place automatic berths by MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all conference tournament champions and at-large berths by MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system).
- Once seeding is complete:
 - Existing byes will be awarded to the highest seeds possible.
 - The higher seed is the home team unless otherwise determined by the NCHSAA.



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Eligibility & Compliance

Eligibility

PowerPoint/Video

- Required viewing for all coaches
- Should be done with the athletic director
- Includes opportunities to discuss concussions/sudden cardiac arrests/sickle cell, etc.



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Eligibility

Preseason Meeting

- Required attendance by all parents
- Time to share rules, regulations, expectations, philosophy etc.
- Time to get all required signatures--pledges, Gfeller-Waller information, etc.
- Eligibility and Authorization



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Eligibility

- Eligibility Checklist
 - Use to ensure school has done its due diligence



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Clinic Attendance

Head coaches in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, volleyball and wrestling must attend an NCHSAA approved State Rules Clinic.

- Must be completed prior to coaching in the first contest; subject to \$400 fine, in addition to a \$500 fine if he/she actually coaches in the contest
- Can be satisfied at the NC Coaches' Association Clinic being held here in Greensboro—July 17-20



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Clinic Attendance

- If the head coach cannot attend the NCCA clinic or is not hired until afterwards, the requirement can also be met at one of the statewide officials' clinics, which are posted on the NCHSAA Website under clinics. Please note that several volleyball and soccer clinics for officials occur prior to the NCCA Clinic.
- **Athletic directors cannot satisfy this requirement by attending a rules' session in place of the head coach**



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Coaches' Education

NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course

- **All** coaches must satisfy the requirement prior to first contest.
- Complete prior to first contest; subject to a \$500 fine; continuing to coach without completion = another \$500.



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Coaches' Education

Concussion Management Certification

- The **NFHS Concussion in Sports Course** (free on-line course) or an equivalent course must be completed annually (*after June 1, 2017 and before the first date of practice*) by all coaches.
- **Prior to the first date of practice for that sport**; subsequently, the certificate of completion must be on file at the individual school; subject to \$500 fine.



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Gfeller-Waller Concussion Law

Requirements of the Law:

- Concussion signs and symptoms
 - Given prior to participation
 - Parents/athletes sign indicating “receipt of” Return to Play (RTP) form signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine
 - An up-to-date Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
 - Must be on-file
 - Must be posted
 - Must be updated annually
- **“When in doubt, sit them out”**



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Cardiac Safety Program

All NCHSAA member schools must have a Cardiac Safety Program to include three (3) components:

- Appropriate number of AEDs on Campus
- AED maintenance program (battery checks, maintain, replacement at appropriate intervals)
- Required viewing of short AED/CPR video for all supervising adults (teachers, coaches, administrators)



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Coaches' Education

Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC)

- Requires completion of 4 courses:
 - Fundamentals of Coaching
 - 1st Aid, Health & Safety for Coaches
 - Sport Specific Course or Teaching Sports Skills
 - Concussion in Sports (Free)



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Coaches' Education

Certified Interscholastic Coach (CIC)

- Completion of AIC requirements
- Plus:
 - Teaching & Modeling Behavior
 - Engaging Effectively with Parents
 - Sportsmanship
 - Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
 - Strength & Conditioning
 - 2 additional courses (User Choice)



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THANK YOU

- Get involved with student services
- Visit the NCHSAA website often
- Pick-up your card as you leave today
 - Enter your code into the computer immediately to get credit for attendance
 - Mobile device or computer
 - All fields required except comments box
 - Use same email address that was used for NFHS Courses
 - Deadline for entry is August 14, 2017
 - Avoid \$400 fine for your school



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