

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2021 Football Bulletin 3

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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2021 SEASON UPDATES

It is hard to believe we are coming up to almost the halfway point of the season. We have seen many good games and efforts from officials to this point. Keep up the hard work and remember, we need to focus hard on every play as teams are positioning for playoffs. Take care of the little things and get the big fouls. It seems that many times where we have a breakdown in mechanics or rules comes from a lack of concentration.

Here are a few items to review before each game:

1. Bandana's are legal to wear "UNDER" the helmet so long as they do not have "Tails" hanging below the helmet in the back. This falls under 1-5-3a5 and also is a safety issue. The exception to this rule is one moisture absorbing towel, solid color, no less than 4" wide and 12" in length, and no greater than 18" in width and 36" in length. One manufactures logo no more than 2 1/4" square. Sweat bands are also permitted so long as they are worn no more that 3" from the wrist towards the elbow. Let's not allow a "Gatorade" advertisement.
2. Eye Shields: The question comes up time and time again, but the rule simply states in 1-5-3ac4 constructed of molded rigid material and Clear without the presence of any tint. There are some shields that have a light grey or rose tint and ever so slight. These are ILLEGAL. The misconception is that we do this so the players face/eyes can be seen. No where in the rules is this stated and when in doubt, the shield is illegal. Officials can check the tint with your game card, if there is any presence of tint, even if slight, the player can not play with it on. Dark eye glasses (Sun Glasses) are permitted to be worn under the face mask. Also, a doctor's excuse is illegal and can not be accepted unless a letter directly from the PIAA office and signed by Dr. Lombardi is presented to the Referee prior to the game.
3. Meetings: Officials are attending Rules Meetings without their Rules and Case books. Many officials have purchased electronic versions for their phone and I-Pads, many officials are attending for attendance credit only. Would you go to your game without your flag & whistle?? without your uniform?? Encourage everyone to help reverse this trend and use the tools provided to make us all better officials.
4. Play: K free kick @ K40, K's kick is touched in the field of play by B1 at the B 7 yd line, and rolls into the end zone.
 - **Ruling:** Touch back, but remember, we should have started the clock on the touch, then stopped the clock when the ball broke the plane of the GL. Good clock awareness by all crew members help, time could be critical later in the game.