

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2022 Football Bulletin 1

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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Week 1 Bulletin



This mouthpiece is legal as it meets the requirements of NFHS Rules Book Rule 1-5-1 (d)(5).

This jersey is **illegal**.

Please reference NFHS Football Rules Book Rule 1-5-1 (b)(3)(a).

However, schools are authorized to participate in a contest wearing this PA Army National Guard provided jersey for one home game without penalty.



Week 1 Bulletin Continued

Uniform Police:

This continues to be an emphasis and every year we see games with players wearing “short pants” Colored Tee shirt tails hanging out from under their Jersey or “war paint” on the face. We must enforce these rules just as we would any other. A coach telling the officials “we don’t have pants/jersey that will fit him” is not an excuse. Remember, these are things we need to get taken care of in pregame/first series not the 4th qtr. Keep working on this every week. PIAA POE: Be a pro. Enforce all the rules, just not the easy ones. Send the player off that refuses to wear their pants correctly. Better officials enforce all the rules, not just the ones they like.

Eye Shields: 1-5-3,3c,4b

Eye shields MUST be “Clear without the presence of ANY tint.”

There are NO exceptions. A doctor’s letter is not permissible. The Manufacture statement that “it’s legal” is not permissible. Rose, smoked or chrome fade out is not permissible. The only exception to any rule is a letter, on PIAA letterhead and signed by Dr. Robert Lombardi. If in question as to tint/no tint, officials can check it by placing your game card behind the shield, if any tint, they must remove the shield.

Ineligible Receiver Down field: 7-5-12

The rule states that ineligible A players may not advance across the expanded neutral zone (2 yds) before a legal forward pass which crosses the neutral zone is in flight unless touched by B in or behind the neutral zone.

In a 5-person crew the U is primary, in a crew of 6, the L has primary with the U, S&F as secondary. To properly officiate these types of plays, it is imperative the calling official knows for sure where the ineligible player is at the time the pass is released by the passer. We can not guess and look for them after the pass falls incomplete or caught. A player can travel several yards in the 1-2 seconds after the ball leaves the passers hand and falls incomplete or caught. If we are uncertain, the foul should not be called.

We also must be patient when the passer rolls out, even if we see the ineligible player beyond the expanded Neutral zone, a foul only occurs when the pass goes beyond the expanded NZ. In the case where the passer is outside the FBZ and throws the ball out of bounds, consideration should be to pass on the foul and roll the down. Conversely, when the passer rolls outside the FBZ and throws the ball towards a receiver in the field of play, officials should then consider calling the foul. It is necessary for the official to view the entire play, process the play and then make the decision. There is nothing wrong in allowing the play to finish before dropping the flag. If called, the penalty is 5 yds from previous spot.

Week 1 Bulletin Continued

Pushing Helmets off:

It has become defensive practice for a defender to push the helmet off the runner as the defender is getting off the pile. This is done to remove the runner from the game and if done at a crucial time can give the defense a huge advantage. This foul should be called a Personal Foul and allow the runner to stay in the game as the helmet off was result of a foul.

Clock Operators:

It is recommended that Referees should request from the game manager to have clock operators report to the game officials prior to the start of the game regardless of the experience of those operators. Often, the clock operators are accustomed to doing things “their way” or not aware of timing rule changes. Make them a part of the crew.

Teams from Locker room:

In a 6-person game, we are now sending H/S and L/F for their respective teams at beginning of the game and at halftime. There is safety in numbers and many school’s locker rooms are a distance from the field.

Play:

QB A12 runs with the ball outside of the lateral lines of the FBZ. He throws a backwards to the Running Back A28 who has remained within the lateral lines of the FBZ. All receivers being covered he throws a forward pass downfield to an area void of any receivers. Is this intentional grounding or is it an incomplete pass based on the fact the ball went outside the lateral lines when in possession of the QB A12? Is it the ball, player or both that must be outside the lateral lines for it to be considered an incomplete pass?

Answer:

The player that passes (passer) the ball must have been outside the FBZ in possession of the player that ultimately passes the ball.

Play:

All team A players are set as A1 is calling signals, end A77 is in a three-point stance, A77 slowly lifts the hand that was on the ground and moves to a wider position. Team A has four players in the backfield and five other players number 50-79. Has A77 committed a foul?

Answer:

No Foul, 7-1-7c

Week 1 Bulletin Continued**Illegal Block in the Back: 2-5-2**

We need to be aware of the difference between aiding the runner and a potential block in the back to “push the pile”. Aiding the runner is pushing, pulling, or lifting the runner. When we have a “pile” and officials have not ruled forward progress (the pile continues forward) we must be aware of players contacting a player in the moving pile in the back. This forcible contact from behind should be considered a Block in the Back (BIB). Enforcing this type of action will prevent rough play.

