

2022 Football Bulletin 3

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Concussion Management continues to be a very important point of emphasis in every interscholastic sporting activity. Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as a loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by the appropriate health-care professional.

When sending an athlete out of a contest, the official should advise the head coach that the player is being removed from competition due to the athlete exhibiting concussion like symptoms.

Neither officials, nor coaches, are expected to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the responsibility of an appropriate health-care professional. The game official is not responsible for the sideline evaluation or management of the athlete after he or she is removed from play.

The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the head coach, appropriate health-care professional or other individual designated by the school administrators.

The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional.

If a player returns to the competition the official should just monitor them in the same manner prior to them being sent out originally.

Those wishing to learn more on this topic can register and attend a course sponsored by NFHS by using this link: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>



GOAL LINE:

When we have the goal line threatened and have the line to gain between the line of scrimmage and the goal line officials sometimes hesitate as to what holds priority. When the ball is snapped from the 7 and in, both the Line Judge and Headlinesman need to get to the goal line and allow the play to come to you at the pylon and then work back to the dead ball spot. L/H should not stand still on the LOS and try to judge the line to gain or the goal line from the line of scrimmage. Get to the GOAL LINE and get back off the pylon to have the wide view. Keep the goal line area clear of media/camera people, that area is yours.

DISQUALIFICATION REPORTS:

Officials are reminded that when you have a foul or combinations of fouls that disqualify a player, be sure that the explanation you give the coach and the explanation you write on the report are the same. We cannot tell the coach one thing then file a report with something else explained on it. Also, if it is language, use that "exact" language in quotes in the report. We must be sure to file this report within 24 hours to the PIAA office and can submit the report using the online form. Make sure you have the name(s) of the person(s) disqualified. After submitting you will receive a confirmation email.

FAIR CATCH: 6-5-1 thru 8; 9-3-3

While we want the S/F in 6 person and BJ in 5 person crews to be aware of blocks in the back and blindside blocks during the kick and return, we MUST be aware of the receiver or teammate of the return team giving either a valid or invalid fair catch signal. We ask the H to look down the field once the ball is kicked to view the receiver or teammate giving a valid/invalid signal. If observed, the H must blow the play dead once possession is gained or the foul if that player blocks after giving the signal. In a 6-person crew, the S/F must be in position to have a view of the receiver in their area while maintaining a view up field. Once the S/F know the ball has been secured both officials need to look up field ahead of the runner for illegal blocks. Also, running with the ball after a valid/invalid fair catch signal should be called for Delay of Game.

SPOTTING THE BALL:

When any scrimmage or free-kick rolls out of bounds, whether touched or not, it is placed at the hash-marks, **NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD**. Let's not give a team an advantage not intended by the rules.

Umpires, we must keep track of where the ball is snapped from. It is not ok just to be close. Use a second down marker to track the 5 different positions on the field. (See new 6 person Manual)

Spotting after a foul; if we snap from the right hash, a pass is to the left hash and we have DPI, the penalty needs to be enforced from the right hash (previous spot), not the left hash. Let's get better with this.

INADVERTANT WHISTLE: 4-2-3,a-d

An IW, we all have had one. When this occurs, we need to “OWN IT” and as a good crew mate we also need to own it for the crew and blow the play dead when it happens. We place players at a disadvantage when we try to hide it. No matter what we may think, others have heard it too and we should make sure we hit the whistle, kill the play, and enforce as the rule specifies. Crews are reminded to review the rule and the options available. While no one likes having an IW, there is a rule that covers this event.

STARTING AND STOPPING GAME CLOCK: 3-4-7

“When a foul is committed with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team will have the option to start the game clock on the snap.”

This new for 2022 Rule has been missed this year and placed the offended team at a disadvantage at a very critical time of the game. All officials need to have great clock awareness and MUST own the clocks. When the game gets to the two-minute mark in each half, the crew needs to communicate this either by O2O’s or a crew signal. This reminds the crew to slow down when a foul occurs and allow the offended team to choose their option. Take your time and get it right.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Officials are reminded to be careful with social media posts. We all like to brag about where we are working or what big game we have, but that will only lead to problems. We also are quick to post our opinions on videos and how our fellow officials “missed that call”. Officials should use caution when approached by any media, allow the R to address any questions or better yet, direct them to your assignor if you have one. Again, we all like to show how much we know about football, but many times we are mis-quoted or taken out of context. Remember, “SILENCE CAN NEVER BE MIS-QUOTED”!!! Finally, throwing your fellow officials under the bus in an interview with the media for a call is not how good officials carry out their business. Be a Pro. If you have a problem with an official’s call talk to them in private.

Training Video link: <https://youtu.be/KbFiFUabCyY>

