

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

# 2022 Football Postseason Bulletin

## Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



### PIAA Officials' Staff:

[Patrick B. Gebhart](#), Assistant Executive Director

[Ryan D. Hartman](#), Chapters' Secretary

[Jacqueline Rocco](#), Officials' Secretary

[Kim Hill](#), Officials' Corresponding Secretary

**October 2022**  
Statewide Rules Interpreter  
**Dave Blair**

## 2022 Post Season

As playoffs start, officials are reminded to be prepared to work your position. Get into the manual and understand the position especially if you are working in a spot, you haven't all year. We need to focus on each and every play and be prepared to give these student athletes our best as they give their best to advance their team to the next round.

**Training Video:** <https://youtu.be/-agEcOfSBKY>

**Officials Uniforms** - Either 1" or 2" long sleeve or short sleeve shirts are allowed - crew's choice. All members of the crew must be dressed exactly alike. Look and act professional throughout arrival, the game and departure.

**Player Uniforms** - Yes, we may not like it but let's all work to get the game started clean by getting the eye shade, jerseys, knee pads etc. taken care of in pregame.

**Manuals** - The PIAA 7 person mechanics manual is on the PIAA football website, read it and know it. You should not only know your position, but other positions as well as that may affect your mechanics. Referees discuss in pre-game the crew rotation in case someone gets injured. If this does happen, we should move seamlessly and everyone should know where to go. Moving from 5 to 6 or 6 to 7 person mechanics changes some keys and responsibility. Be prepared prior to arriving on game day. Here is the link for the 7 person manual: [http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2022%20PIAA%20Football%207%20Person%20Mechanics%20Manual\(1\).pdf](http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2022%20PIAA%20Football%207%20Person%20Mechanics%20Manual(1).pdf)

**Penalty Enforcements** – If your not doing something during the enforcement period, your doing something wrong. Know your responsibility and get enforcement correct.

**Reminders:** Penalties can NOT take the ball more than ½ the distant to the goal, a false start at the 8 can NOT take the ball to the 3 yard line! Coaches conference after a penalty enforcement, make sure you walk the coach to the sideline if he is on the field, allow him a brief moment, give your ruling and move on, do not allow a prolonged argument to ensue.

**Last Two Minutes** - Review in pregame things that can happen in the last two minutes of each half. Penalty enforcement and how the offended team has options starting the clock. Clock status and how and when to reset it as the half runs out. A great game can disintegrate quickly if focus is lost in the last two minutes.

## 2022 Post Season Continued

**Referee's Announcements/Communications** - Referees practice your announcements prior to the game and if you are not Mic'd take the opportunity to still announce as though you are so the next game you will be relaxed and ready for the Mic. Officials, remember that coaches like to be communicated with. Make sure to answer Head coaches' questions in a short to the point statement, and don't try to be funny no matter how well you may know the coach. Answer questions, ignore statements, and DO NOT make statements to the media or post on social media anything about your game. Remember "silence cannot be miss quoted".

### **Evaluators:**

Be honest when giving feedback to the crew and give a couple areas of the game to for individual officials to work on for the next game. Officials, be open to the feedback and give your full attention to the evaluator, they are there giving their time to help us all get better.

**Mouth Pieces: 1-5-1d, 5a** - It has become a fad to wear a second mouthpiece and let it dangle from the face mask while actually having a mouthpiece in the player's mouth. If an official sees a dangling mouthpiece and the snap is imminent, shut it down and check. If there is a second dangling mouthpiece, ask them to remove it. Not only does it look like they are playing without required equipment, but it is also viewed as an adornment to the uniform and presents a safety issue. Have them remove it.

**Rules to Review** – Some Rules to review prior to playoffs:

- **Visors:** Must be completely clear, no tint is allowed. For some reason, players are still trying to wear tinted visors. Have them removed, do not allow a player to participate with a tinted visor. The lightly tinted pink visors are not allowed, they are not completely clear.
- **Player Uniforms/Eye Shade:** Tee shirts, Eye shade, Towels, Knee pads, get your game started clean, get these issues resolved prior to the start of the game and don't place the burden on the next weeks crew to do so.
- **Sidelines:** Enforce the sideline/team box rules. Keep coaches and non-players back. You have a sideline warning to use which is very effective in moving them back. Protect yourself, players and coaches from any possible injury due to them being in the "WHITE".
- **Momentum:** Review rule 8-5-1, 8-5-2 and 8-5-3. Know the difference between Momentum, a Safety and a Touchback. Who has responsibility of bagging the momentum spot? If there is momentum and the runner carries the ball out of the end zone do you still have momentum?? The answer is NO. Know who was responsible for the ball being in the end zone. Remember, on a Touchback the spot will be the 20 yard line NOT the 25 and A has the option of where between the hashes to place the ball. Ask prior to spotting the ball.

**Clocks** - A bad clock will ruin a good game quickly. Everyone is responsible for the clocks, F and B have Game and Play clocks, own them. If something is not correct, stop the game and correct it. All other officials should make sure the clock stops and starts when it should. All officials should know clock status and feed that information to the R after every stoppage in play.

**Measurements** - When the chains are brought out for a measurement, all crew members make sure you all know what to do. Umpires, do not stretch the chain out until the head linesman tells you that he has the mark set. Work as a Team, Line Judge take responsibility and alert the R if it is a first down, don't make him come to the LOS every time. Like penalty enforcements, if you're not doing something during a measurement, you're doing something wrong.

## 2022 Post Season Continued

**Overtime** - Review and know the overtime rules found on Page 85 of the Rules book. Review this with crew. Create a cheat sheet if needed. Know when a series ends, B gains possession the ball is dead immediately, series is over. Timeouts do NOT carry over, 1 TO each team per overtime period.

**Footballs** - PIAA will provide the Wilson GST for the 2021 football post-season games. Any Wilson footballs approved by NFHS may be used, however, the preferred ball is the GST.

Stay focused and enjoy the moment as with each passing week we get closer to the end of the season and the ability to be on the field until next season. Stay safe and have fun.

**Rule Update**—Update on a final ruling from our NFHS Rules Review Committee dealing with an appeal from LZRD Tech on their arm sleeve for football.

The following is the link to the product that was being appealed from LZRD Tech: <https://lzrdtech.com/products/black-lzrd-sleeve>

This past July, as the staff liaison to the NFHS Football Rules Committee, who is charged with giving responses to manufacturers' request about equipment, the Committee concluded that the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve for Football as submitted, did not comply with the intent and purpose of NFHS Rule 1-5-3c(5) on page 23 of the 2022 NFHS Football Rules Book and thus would not be permissive at that time. The NFHS Football Rules Committee based its decision on observation and touch of the product.

**NFHS Rule 1-5-3c(5) states: ART. 3 . . . Illegal equipment. No player shall participate while wearing illegal equipment. This applies to any equipment, which in the opinion of the umpire is dangerous, confusing or inappropriate. Illegal equipment shall always include but is not limited to: c. The following Other Illegal Equipment: 5. Jerseys, undershirts or exterior arm covers/pads manufactured to enhance contact with the football or opponent.**

This past August and October 2022, LZRD Tech appealed this ruling to the NFHS Rules Review Committee. The NFHS Rules Review Committee agreed with the NFHS Football Rules Committee that, based on observation and touch, the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve for Football appeared to provide a better than normal "grip surface" for competition purposes and did enhance contact with the football. However, during the appeal, LZRD Tech provided a detailed explanation of the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve for Football, as well as verified data to compare the Coefficient of Friction (COF) of the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve for Football versus that of human skin (wet and dry).

**Based on the information and verified data presented by LZRD Tech during their appeal, the NFHS Rules Review Committee voted to approve the use of the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve in the sport of high school football. Thus, the LZRD Tech Arm Sleeve for Football, as presented, demonstrated, and verified for the NFHS Rules Review Committee is now permissible to use in high school competition.**

**Disqualifications:** Prior to ejecting please confer with other crew members. Many of these contests will be the final games of a student's career. If ejecting for a Supplemental Disqualification be sure the criteria are met.