

# 2023 Football Bulletin 1

## Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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## TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS



All three should be considered illegal if rule 9-5-1(c) is used, in that the player is drawing attention to themselves.

ART. 1 ... No player shall act in an un-sportsmanlike manner once the game officials assume authority for the contest. Examples are, but not limited to:

c. Any delayed, excessive or prolonged act by which a player attempts to focus attention upon himself.

PIAA would consider these three tooth and mouth protectors to be part of an excessive act.

## RULE INTERPRETATIONS

### RUNNER IN TO THE BENCH AREA

Officials, let's do a better job of when a runner goes into the bench area to get in there and escort the opposing team players out of that area and back onto the field. The short Wing should mark the OB spot while facing OB and watching action, deep Wing get into the bench area and escort players out. In some cases, the Referee or Back judge can help as well. If the Runner/Players go deep into the bench or there is "trouble brewing" short Wings can drop a bean bag and go. We need to forget about getting the ball until ALL players are back on the field. Worst case the R will pump up the play clock if needed and the offside wing will have the soft spot.

### CLOCKS

All officials are responsible for the clocks so when there is a stoppage, the calling official should glance at the clock as well as the offside officials to make sure it stops properly. We also need to make sure the clock starts when it should. Giving an extra few seconds or allowing a few seconds to run off may not seem like a big thing, but that can mean the difference in a play or two per half. Pay attention especially the last 4 minutes of each half. If you have knowledge of a clock/timing issue, do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the crew. Clock management can mean the difference between a good game or bad one for officials.

### SIDELINES

Officials need to understand that football is an emotional game and coaches, and non-players get excited during a game. Officials must consistently throughout the game remind them to keep the restricted area clear. Much like monitoring uniforms, sidelines are something you just don't mention once during a game. Be vigilant during the game, short and deep wings must remind them to stay clear. If you have issues early, use the sideline warning first. If you run around a non-player or coach, issue the warning, if it is a hard "run in to" the first is a PF sideline interference 15 yards. The second is a PF 15 yards and the head coach DQ'd. Please note, work to prevent injury to yourself and from disqualifying a coach. If the coach runs all the way down to the 5 yd line to question a call, automatic 15 UNS.

### INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

The NFHS has updated the interpretation of the following plays:

- Play 1 - A 2/8 @ A-42, In a shotgun formation QB1 muffs the snap then gains possession, rolls to his right outside the FBZ and throws the ball OB beyond the NZ.
  - Ruling - Legal Play, QB1 was the first to possess the ball.
- Play 2 - A 2/8 @ A-42, In a shotgun formation QB1 muffs the snap or the snap goes over his head, A2 the running back recovers the ball off the ground, he rolls outside the FBZ and throws the ball OB past the NZ.
  - Ruling- Legal play, A2 was first to possess the ball.

**TRAINING VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/UJRTIDnS6zl>