

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

# 2023 Football Bulletin 3

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



## PIAA Officials' Staff

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**September 2023**

Statewide Rules Interpreter

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## 2023 SEASON UPDATES

### ATTITUDE

Officials are encouraged to bring a positive attitude to each and every week's games. This includes attending chapter meetings with Rules books, communicating with crew, arriving at the game on time, being professional throughout the game and controlling our appearance and use of proper mechanics. Move with a purpose on the field and show that you want to be there. Perception is 90% of everyone's reality.

### SIDELINES

We continue to see coaches/players in the restricted area during games. Some even on the field while the play is going on. Please take care of your sidelines at the very start of the game. Starting with the kickoff remind teams once to stay back, after that use your flag. If an official must run onto the field (around a coach/player) this is an automatic team warning. If contact is made, we issue a PF and 15yds. If it happens a second time it is a PF/Sideline Interference and Head Coach is DQ'd. Let's all work at keeping them in the box and prevent injuries or Disqualifications.

### VIDEOS/RULES

Videos are a great learning tool as almost every school uses some form of recording videos, and most are willing to share with officials' chapters for learning purposes. While we can learn a lot from breaking down these videos to better officiate our games, we still must know the rules and apply them in each situation. Proper application of the rules can only happen by using the Rules book in conjunction with the videos. This also helps us with consistent enforcement.

Example Play: 1/G @ B9, B encroaches ball is placed??

Is the enforcement to the B4 or the B 4 1/2?? Answer: A foul can NOT place the ball closer to the opponents GL than half the distance from the enforcement spot. Place ball at the B4 ½.

### CLOCK MECHANICS

We continue to see the lack of the dead ball signal from the covering officials. The H and L should have the majority of the spots and must signal the ball dead, so the play clock operator knows when to start the 40 sec. play clock. Umpires, when the play ends near you or Referee on a QB sack, give the dead ball signal. In doing this we are consistent in getting the play clock started. We also see many times that we are not stopping the game clock when we have a first down, out of bounds or a foul occurs. In doing so we allow time to run off that should not happen. If an official recognizes a clock issue, stop the game, and reset it.

Officials' manuals for 6 & 7 person can be found on the PIAA website <https://www.piaa.org/sports/football/default.aspx.aspx> under Documents. 5 person manuals can be purchased through the NFHS website.

## 2023 SEASON UPDATES

### GUARDIAN HELMET

This Soft Guardian type helmet has been approved by the NFHS, however, Each school should contact the helmet manufacture that they are using to make sure that this addition to the helmet does not void the manufactures warranty.



### STICK-UM/BALL TACK

First, the firm grip spray (stick-um) for the football gloves or hands is ILLEGAL and is not to be used on the gloves/hands. The NFHS has not approved this type product. We have nothing in the current NFHS Football Rules that would prohibit a football being treated and conditioned for use before the game. The NFHS Football Advisory Committee and the NFHS Football Equipment Subcommittee a few years ago reviewed these particular products from Wilson and did not have any concerns for their use on a football prior to the game. Timing was the only concern and the interpretation that has been given in the past is that these products are not to be used on a football during a game. Once the game ball(s) are approved by the game officials before the game, nothing should be applied to them, with the exception of a towel, to dry the ball if it is wet. Now, the referee has the final say during the game on the legality of the game ball being used.



### TRAINING VIDEOS

[https://youtu.be/cD4rR5M\\_WEA](https://youtu.be/cD4rR5M_WEA)

<https://youtu.be/AVW1cb-R8fk>

Keep working hard to improve every week. Have fun, and stay safe.