

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2023 Football Postseason Bulletin

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



PIAA Officials' Staff

[Patrick Gebhart](#), Assistant Executive Director

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

[Jacqueline B. Rocco](#), Officials' Secretary

October 2023
Statewide Rules Interpreter
[Dave Blair](#)

POST SEASON UPDATES

As we complete another regular season of football in the state of PA, we would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication in becoming a better official each and every week as well as providing a good athletic experience for our student athletes and schools.

Now that we are entering the playoff season, we as officials need to be at the top of our game as each game means the difference between moving on or the end of the season for every team. Please review information below in preparation for the post season as well as view the final regular season training video, link is shown below.

THANKS AGAIN for what you do.

General Reminders:

All officials' uniforms are to be clean, pressed, and neat. Please make sure your shoes are clean and polished. No exceptions! Caps are to be fitted, not adjustable, piping WHITE. Have clean black and white striped shirts. All crew members must be dressed alike in style and design. Penalty flags must be properly concealed and not hang out inappropriately. All officials may wear uniform shirts with 1" or 2" stripes, so long as the entire crew is dressed alike. Be professional and groomed in your appearance, don't let this be a hindrance to your success.

Arrival- This is a State-playoff event, arrival time is expected to be at least 2 hours prior to game time if at all possible. There is no excuse for late arrival." If you're on time, you're late. If you're early, you're on time".

Coin Toss-The official coin toss will be held 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time of each respective game, in the designated area. Please assist head coaches and captains to this meeting. Please read, verbatim, the PIAA Sportsmanship message to head coaches and captains during this time. The referee and umpire should be part of this.

Kick Offs- On all kickoffs, clean up the sideline and be aware of on-side or pooch kicks. Please enforce the sideline/coaches box rule. Use only NFHS approved signals and be precise with your use of signals. Do not over officiate. Call them as you see them and enforce the rules as written, make it be there. WE run the games. Coaches do not run these games.

Overtime- Each crew should review the Overtime procedure prior to the game. Rule 3-1, 3-2-1, 3-5-1, 5-1-1, 5-13, 5-2-1 and 5-3-1. Remember, timeouts from regulation play DO NOT CARRY OVER. Each team receives 1 Time Out per overtime period (a series for A and a series for B).

Official Injury- Crew should pregame 6 person mechanics and who will move where should an injury occur to a crew member.

Signals - Please be sure to use only NFHS signals and that they are clear and concise. If using O2O's, remember to be professional and that others can possibly hear your transmissions.

Mechanics - Please review the correct positioning for each official and know your assigned position prior to arriving for your game. Review the 7person 2022 mechanics manual posted on the PIAA website under documents. (<https://www.piaa.org/sports/football/default.aspx>)

Referee:

Do not turn back to players on the line of scrimmage, before or after signaling the ready for play. Let the umpire handle the spotting of the ball. Keep the game moving. Be consistent in your Ready for Play for both teams throughout the game. Do not be in a hurry. Come to a complete stop and clearly and concisely give signals to the press box. If you will be mic'ed for Television/Stadium, please speak clearly, and distinctly, without yelling. Give the number of the player who fouled. Do not become the focus of the game; be part of the game.

Umpire:

Vary your movements from tackle to tackle. Do not get too stationary. Know the numbers of the interior linemen and signal the down out to the side, not overhead. Be alert on passes over the middle to assist the downfield judges on trapped balls in the area between the umpire and downfield judges. Be certain of the starting spot for penalty enforcements and ball position.

Linesman/Line Judge:

Stay on the sideline, off the field of play, and square off spots. Too many wingmen are angling to spots. Squaring off makes the spots more precise. Hold your position to get a good view of quick passes from quarterback into the side zone, be ready to rule whether a backward or a forward pass. Pinch to get spot on close line-to-gain plays and on the goal line. Make sure you know where line-to-gain is. If a measurement is necessary, do not move the ball. Measure from where the ball was downed. Moving it gives an impression of changing the mark. Be certain that you work with the U to get penalty enforcement correct.

Downfield Judges:

If there will be a 40/25 second clock located in each end zone. No need for BJ to raise hand on count. Do not get too deep on your initial position. Move with play and get to proper position to see the whole play. On kickoffs, do not ball watch, see blocking and interaction of players in pursuit of the ball carrier. If action takes players out of bounds into team areas, make sure an official goes with the players and another gets the spot. Eliminate "ganging up" on ball carrier. Keep your cushion on long plays and don't get beat to the goal line. Be ready to officiate at the opening kickoff. Work throughout the game to keep the sidelines clear.

If overtime, only one time out per team per period. There is no carryover for time-outs.

Please ensure that the chain crew is included in a portion of your pre-game meeting. They may play an important part in your contest. Ask the Boxman to place white tape on the stick and record every snap position (LOS). Have a fine sharpie with you for him/her.

As a final note-the locker room area is off limits to all persons one hour prior to kickoff. While this is a fun time to be an official, please understand that you represent your chapter, district, and PIAA. Please enjoy the time at your game but know that you play a critical part in our playoffs that cannot be taken lightly.

Also, remember that each game can be broadcast statewide and streamed all over the world. Any communication with players, coaches, or partners must be professional. The camera is on all the time.

Training Video 7- <https://youtu.be/gyzrVH4N9bs>