

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2021 Football Bulletin 2

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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Statewide Rules Interpreter

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Notice to All Inter-District Playoff Officials in all Fall Sports

All officials must be fully vaccinated to officiate any post season inter-district contest. The terms and conditions of PIAA inter-district playoff contracts will include language that all officials working those contests must be fully vaccinated.

2021 SEASON UPDATES

As we head into the 4th week of our season, we need to focus on our mechanics, cleaning up the pregame items such as uniforms, face paint and sidelines cleared and coaches in the box at the snap. We all know that we can clean up all the uniform issues in pregame only to have players alter uniforms, face paint etc. We must remain vigilant throughout the contest. Please keep the coaches and players OFF the sidelines, this is for the officials safety as well as players and coaches. Below are areas to be worked on and a couple plays that have come up.

1. Pregame: Develop a checklist of items the crew should consider during warmup's. When a coach verifies his players are properly equipped, this includes uniforms properly worn, eye shields, face paint, arm bands etc. Write these violations down during the pregame and allow the coach to address any issues with his players prior to the game starting. Preventative officiating. If a player alters any of these during the game and it is discovered, send him out of the game until corrected.
2. Sidelines: After watching several game films we see many wing officials allowing coaches and players in the "WHITE" areas in front of the team box. Get them back, it is your duty to constantly remind players and coaches to "Get in the Box." Use a professional and calm approach in addressing the issue and do it throughout the game. If the issue becomes a problem with coaches and players not responding to your requests, use the Sideline Warning first, then if it continues, penalize the team. Get the sidelines cleaned up!!
3. Mechanics: Double Sticks Signal, the accepted double sticks signal according to the NFHS Officials manual is Signal 21, delay of game. This mechanic is to remind the wing officials to be aware of the distance to the LTG so not to inadvertently kill the clock when the ball crosses the original LOS (Back Stick).

2021 Season Updates Continued

Play 1:

Third and 10 from B's 40 yard line. The runner goes to the two yard line and thinks he is in the endzone. He drops the ball at the two yard line. He then picks up the ball and throws it into the end zone and over the end line.

Ruling: Illegal forward pass and B has no options, Since the pass occurred beyond the previous spot it is a foul for an illegal forward pass. The penalty is 5 yards from the spot of the foul with loss of down, however since the penalty enforcement leaves the ball in advance of the LTG, Team A 1/G@ B7. Clock on snap, Play Clock 25.

Remember, preventative officiating and not allow a team to make a mistake in accepting or declining a penalty. This is a Coaches decision and we should make sure he understands his options prior to enforcement. Don't rush enforcement.

Play 2:

A3/10@B-15. QB A10 runs to the B-6 where he is tackled by B55, who is flagged for targeting on QB A10. While QB A10 is on the ground, B25 is called for a late hit as QB A10 is laying on the ground. QB A10 takes exception to the late hit and gets up and takes a swing at B25, but misses.

Ruling: A 1/G @ B 3 ½ We penalize the live ball foul for Targeting (live ball and we DO NOT DISQUALIFY the player for Targeting unless ruled Flagrant) giving A 1/Goal, the two dead ball fouls offset as in 10-2-5b. A10 is Disqualified for throwing a punch, even though he did not connect, (2-11 definition for FIGHTING).

Additional note—Fighting is a Supplemental Disqualification whether the punch connects the other person or not. This is considered confronting a contestant which is one of the criteria and if contact is made it would fall under the personal contact criteria listed for the Supplemental Disqualification.

Please review the Supplemental Disqualification information below:

A Supplemental Disqualification is triggered when a Coach or contestant is ejected from a contest and a component of the disqualification is the act(s) of confronting, contacting or addressing a Coach, contestant or official using foul or vulgar language, ethnic or racially insensitive comments or physical contact. This section is NOT intended for other infractions described as "rules of the game" or actions which do not meet the above criteria.