





TSSAA CONCUSSION POLICY (OFFICIALS' PROTOCOL)

1. Determine prior to the start of the contest whether or not a school has access to a designated health care provider during the contest.
2. Continue to monitor players for possible signs of injury as usual.
3. Remove any player that shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion per NFHS rules.
4. Inform the head coach that the player is being removed for showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion.
5. The school shall have the player examined by their designated health care provider. If the designated health care provider determines that the student has not sustained a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to contest rules.
6. The head coach is in charge of getting clearance from the school's designated healthcare provider.



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OFFICIALS' PROTOCOL CONTINUED..

- 7. If the school does not have access to a designated health care provider, or if the school's designated health care provider suspects that the athlete may have sustained a concussion, the only means for an athlete to return to practice or play is for the student to be evaluated and cleared by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D.O.) or a Clinical Neuropsychologist with Concussion Training.
- 8. If signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed by an official , and a designated health care provider is not available to evaluate the student athlete, the "TSSAA Concussion Return to Play" form MUST be completed and signed by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D. O.) or a Clinical Neuropsychologist with concussion training, and shown to the official(s) by the head coach prior to a student-athlete returning to participate in a contest the same day.
- 9. If a player that has been removed by an official for showing signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion is allowed to return to play during the contest, an "Unusual Occurrence Form" shall be filed with the state office by the official within 24 hours of the incident.
- 10. Officials have no role in the diagnosis of a concussion. NFHS Rules do require that the officials remove players from the contest when signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed and the above written protocol must be followed.
- Designated Health Care Providers – Certified Athletic Trainer, Certified Nurse Practitioner, Physicians Assistant, Doctor of Medicine, Osteopathic Physician



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TSSAA HEAT POLICY

- Requires that schools monitor the heat index at the site of the practice or competition and make adjustments based on the reading.
- The chart which shows the adjustments that must be made during a practice is found at the following link:
<http://www.tssaa.org/Handbook/heatpolicy.pdf>

TSSAA HEAT POLICY

Modifications for Football Competition when the Heat Index is 95°-104°
Officials shall stop the game for a heat time-out at the first dead ball after the halfway point of each quarter. If either team has possession of the ball inside the other team's twenty yard line, officials may delay this time out until either the offensive team scores or the ball is turned over.



TSSAA LIGHTNING POLICY

TSSAA follows the NFHS Guidelines found in NFHS Rules Books.

If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, IT IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO STRIKE YOU!! You must immediately suspend the activity.

You must follow the thirty minute rule. Once the activity is suspended, at least 30 minutes must pass after the last clap of thunder is heard or the last flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

- Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count requires the clock to be reset and another 30 minute count to begin.



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TSSAA LIGHTNING POLICY

- Protocol and chain of command for suspension of play should be discussed in the pre-game meeting with the game officials. **If a host school has a policy which bases suspension of play on proximity of lightning while using a lightning detector, this must be communicated to the game officials at the pre-game meeting.** It should be clearly stated who will be in charge of monitoring the lightning detector and notifying the game officials when lightning is in the area. **If cloud to ground lightning is seen or thunder is heard by the game officials before a lightning detector displays an alert, the game shall be suspended and the 30 minute count shall begin.**



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TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Purpose:

To allow officials and representatives from both teams to review and discuss the Home facilities Emergency Action Plan and available emergency resources



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Representatives:

- **Back Judge**
- **Home Game Administrator**
- **Athletic Trainers from both teams (if a team does not have an athletic trainer, then an assistant coach who is designated as the medical representative for that team)**
- **Any other medical personnel who will be present on the sidelines in an official capacity during the game (team physician, EMT, additional trainers, etc)**
- **SRO or another representative from security**



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

When/Where/Who:

- Immediately following the game administrator meeting at midfield
- Home Game Administrator and home team athletic trainer (if available) will conduct the meeting



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Agenda:

- Introductions: who everyone is (credentials) and what their skill set is
 - Who is CPR certified?
- Resources:
 - AED location and who will retrieve the AED if needed
 - Ambulance (if available) and how it will access the field: security representative will know this route into the stadium and be able to clear it quickly
 - If an ambulance is not available, who will be responsible for calling 911 after requested by the lead medical personnel?
 - Identification of the nearest hospital or medical center
 - Who will have scissors (for jerseys and shoulder pads), razor
 - Is there adequate cell phone service? If not, how will off-site emergency personnel be contacted?
 - Immobilization devices (neck collar, air casts/splints for fractures)
 - Cold water immersion tubs



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

For games played at neutral sites:

- **Each team should be given a copy of the Emergency Action Plan for the facility where the game is being played**
- **Administrative representatives from both schools should be present at the meeting**
- **The designated lead health care provider will conduct the meeting**





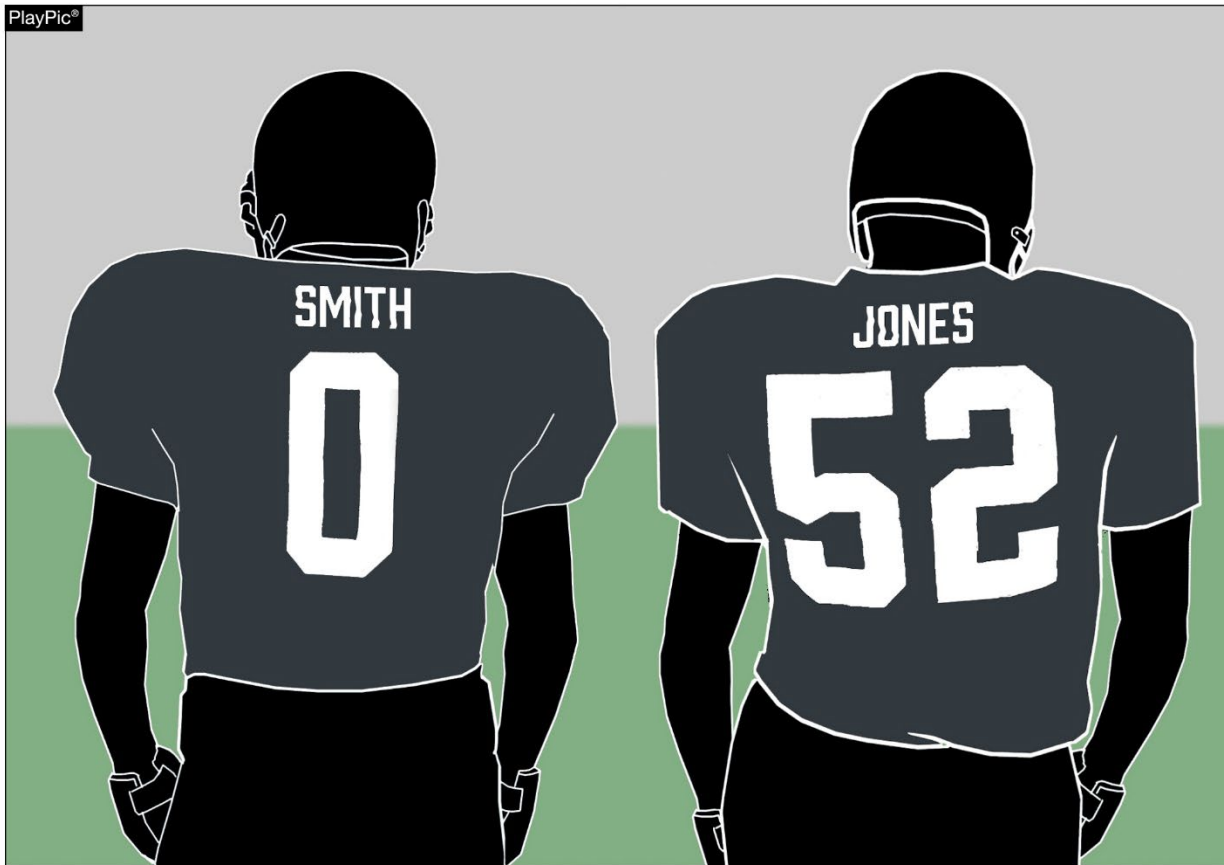
2024 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGE



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HOME JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1b(3)



Jerseys of the home team shall all be the same dark color(s) that clearly contrasts to white.

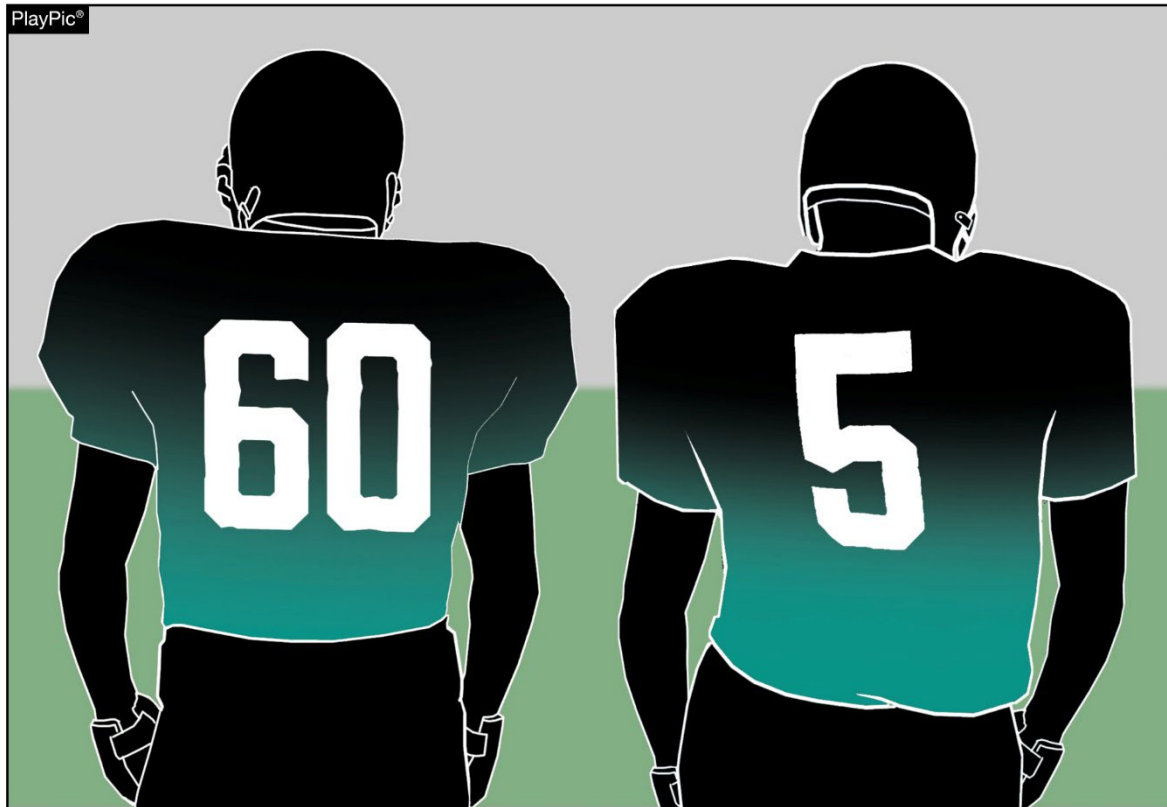
LEGAL



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HOME JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1b(3)



These jerseys are legal because it is the same dark colors. All players on this home team shall wear the same dark colored jerseys in order to comply with the rule.

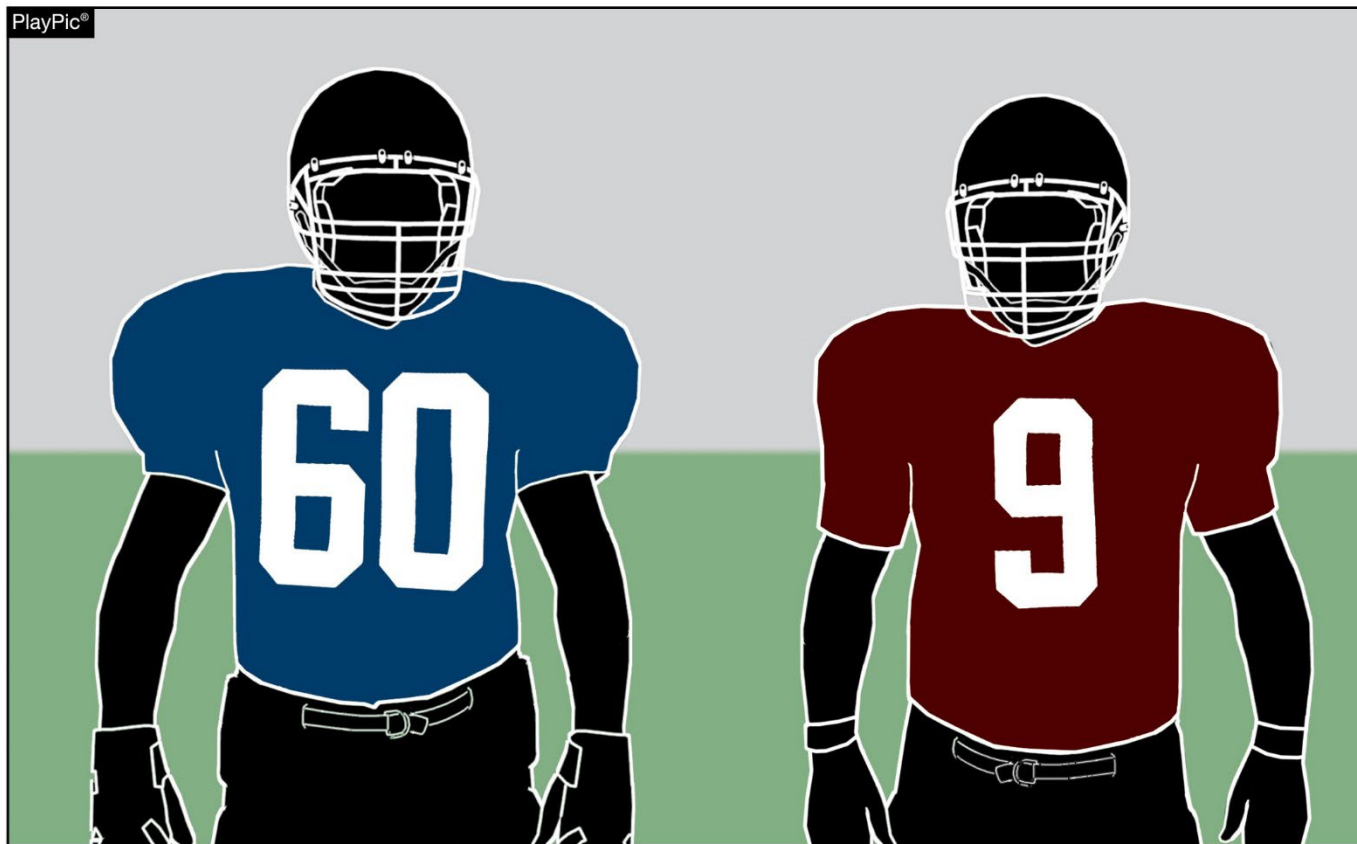


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LEGAL



HOME JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1b(3)



These jerseys of the home team are illegal because all members of the home team must wear the same dark color(s) that clearly contrasts to white.

ILLEGAL



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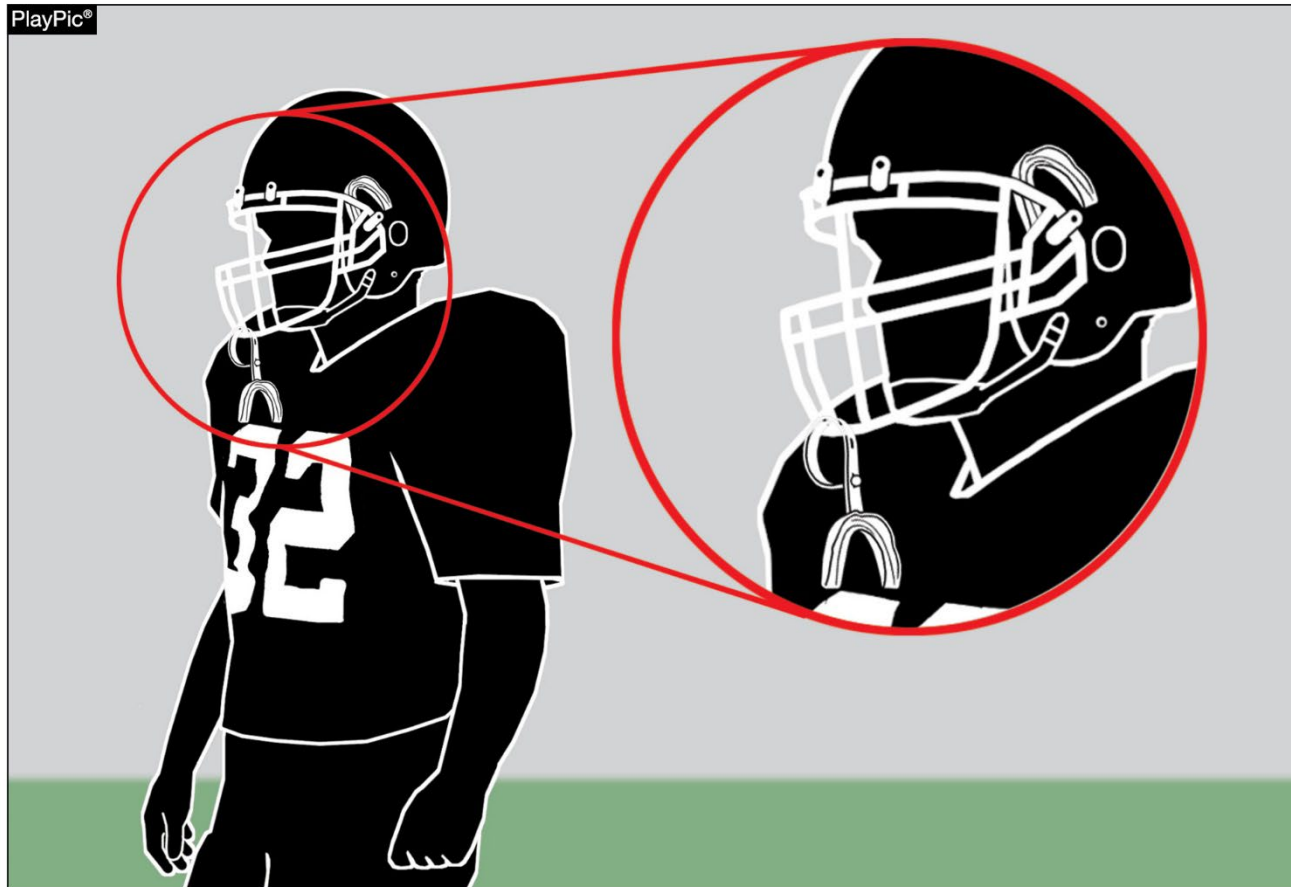
2024 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES



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TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTOR RULE 1-5-1d(5)a



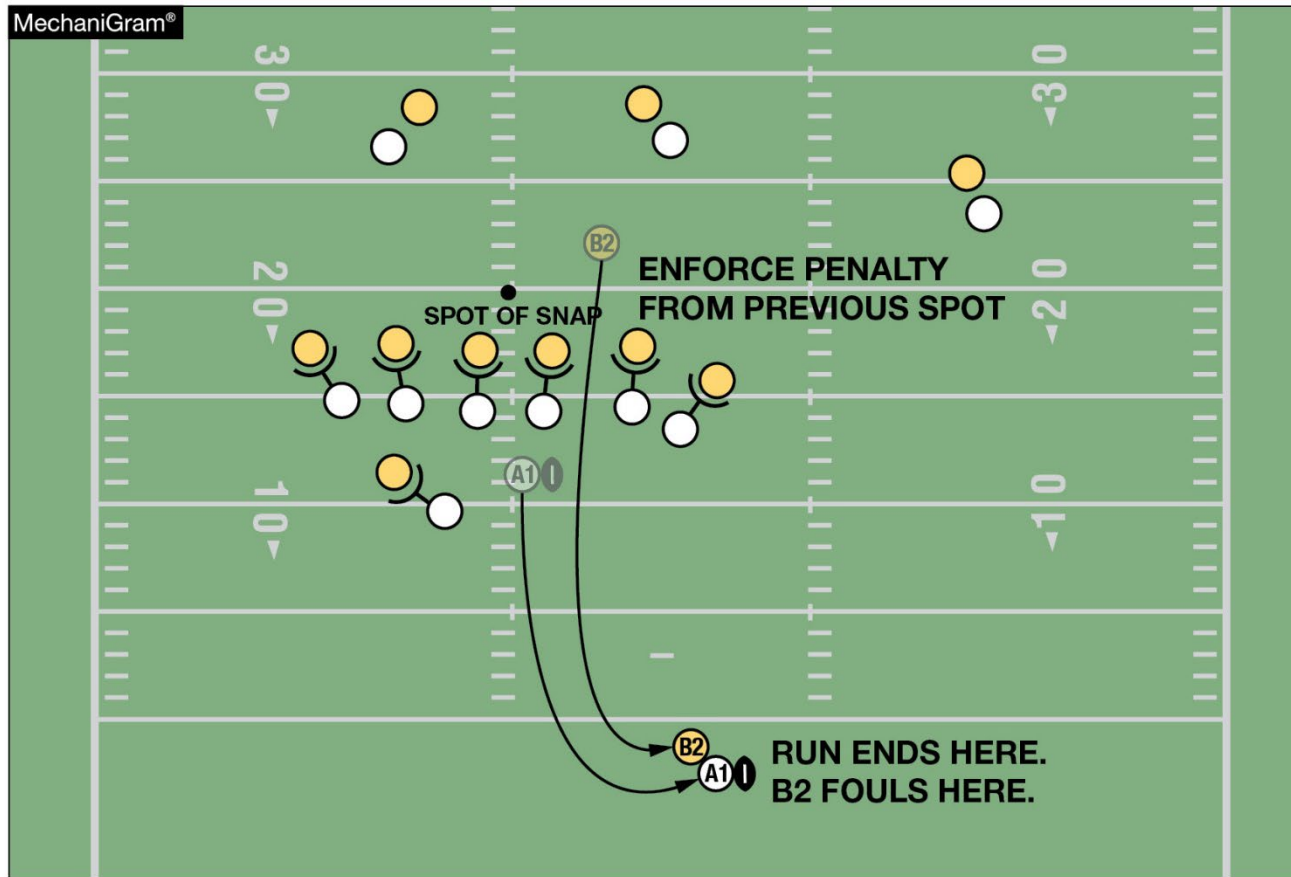
Players may have only one tooth and mouth protector.



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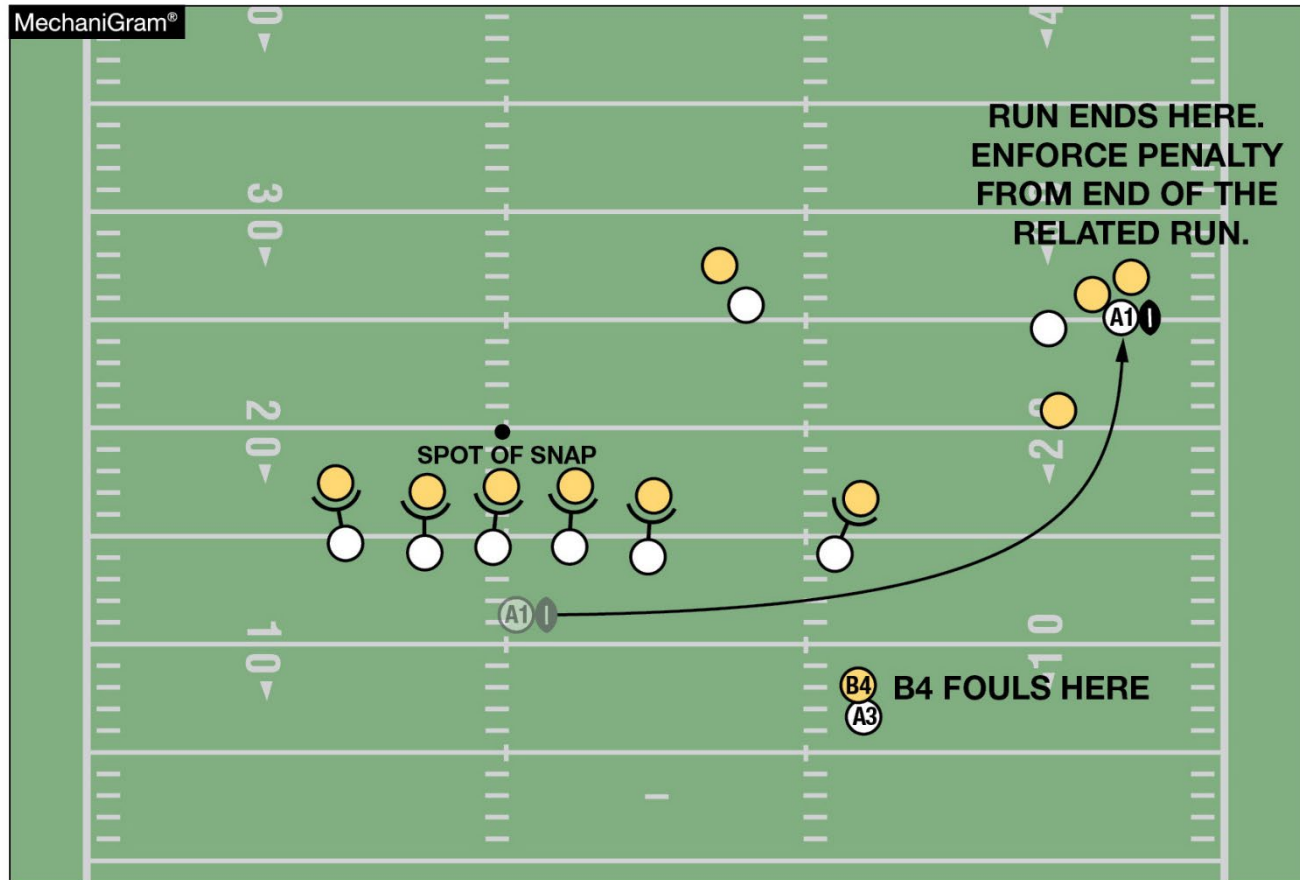
BASIC SPOTS RULE 10-4-2d



The penalty for this foul is enforced from the previous spot. Under the old rule, the penalty would have been enforced from the goal line.



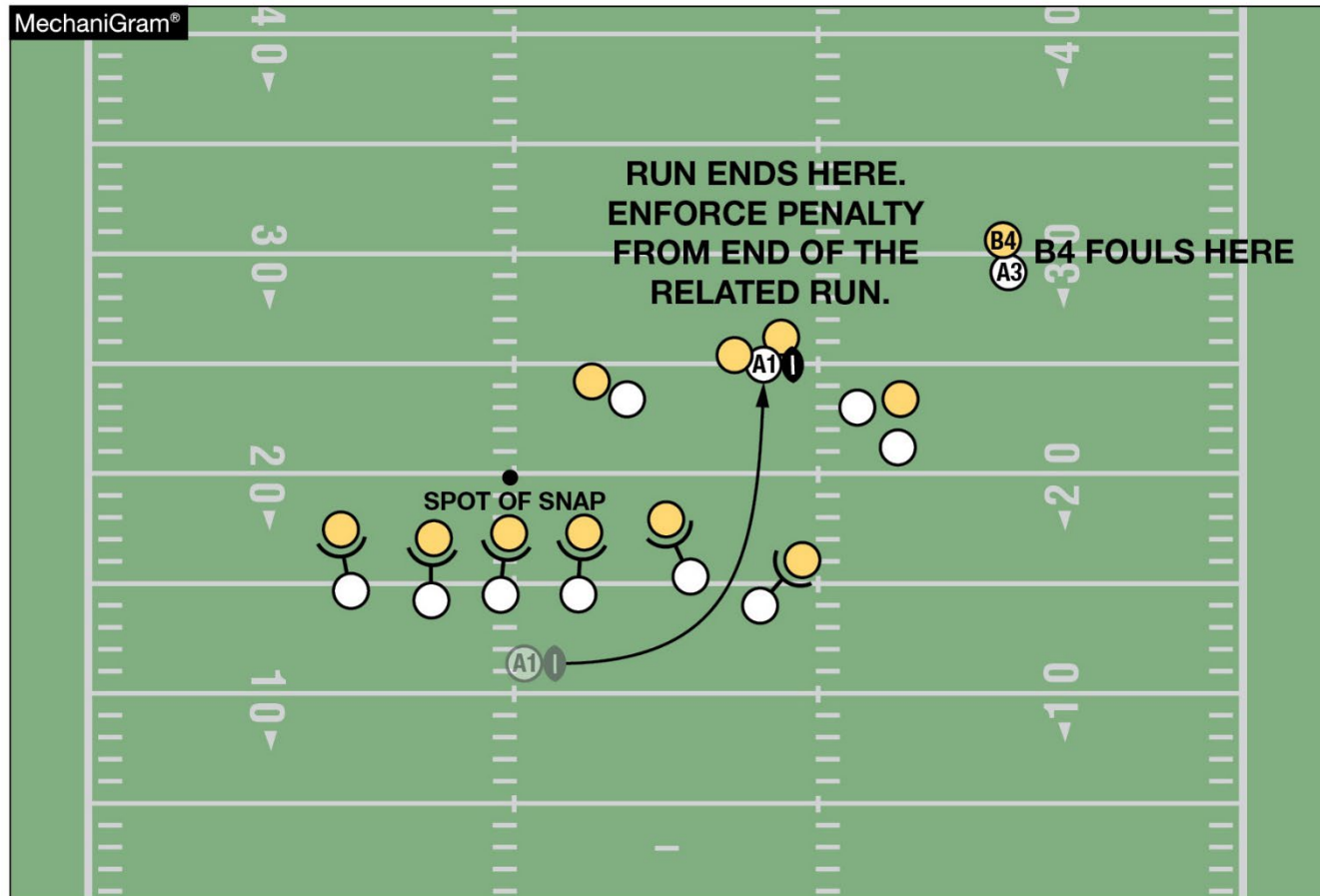
BASIC SPOTS RULE 10-4-6a



The basic spot is the end of the run or related run for a foul by B when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage.

BASIC SPOTS

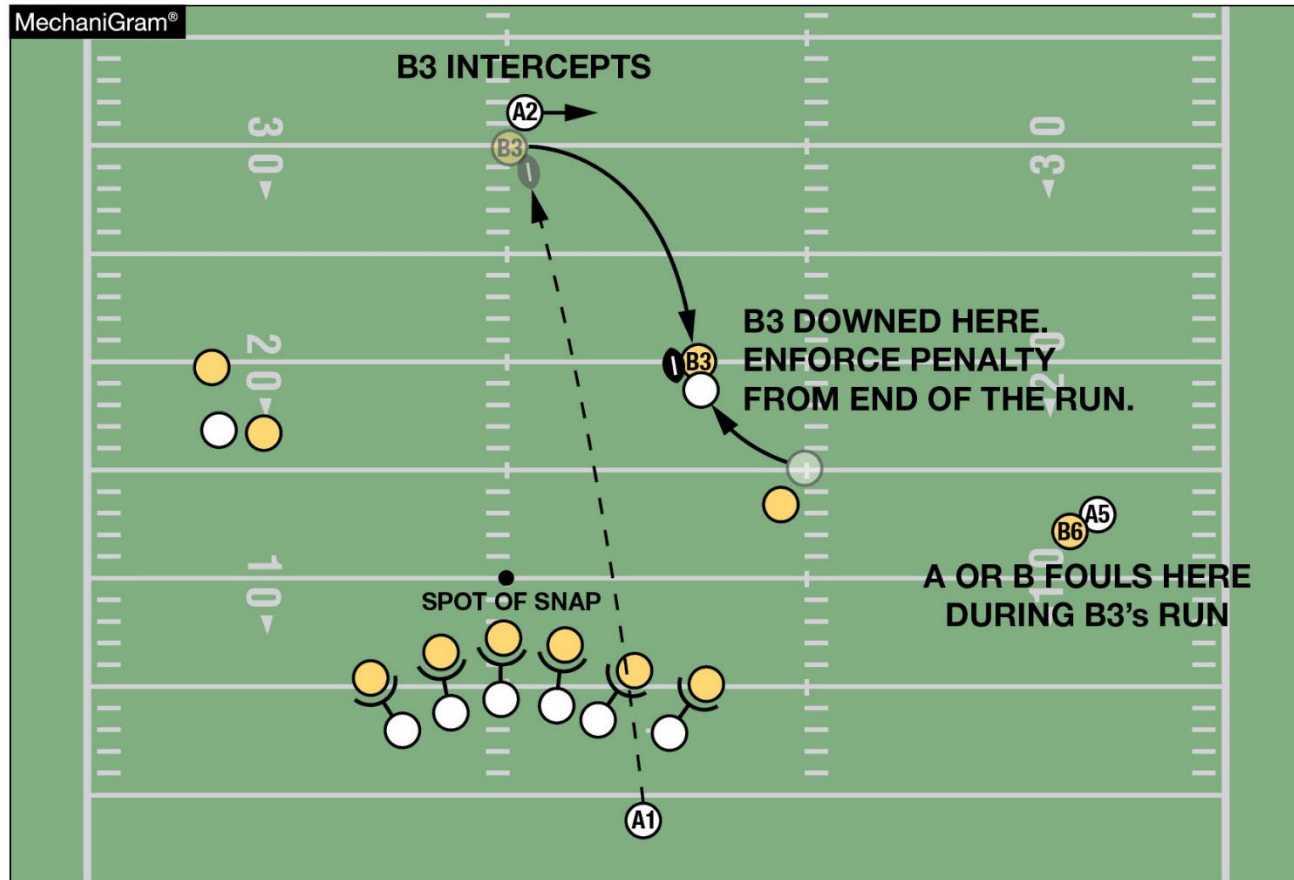
RULE 10-4-6a



The basic spot is the end of the run or related run when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage and the foul occurs in advance of the end of the run or related run.



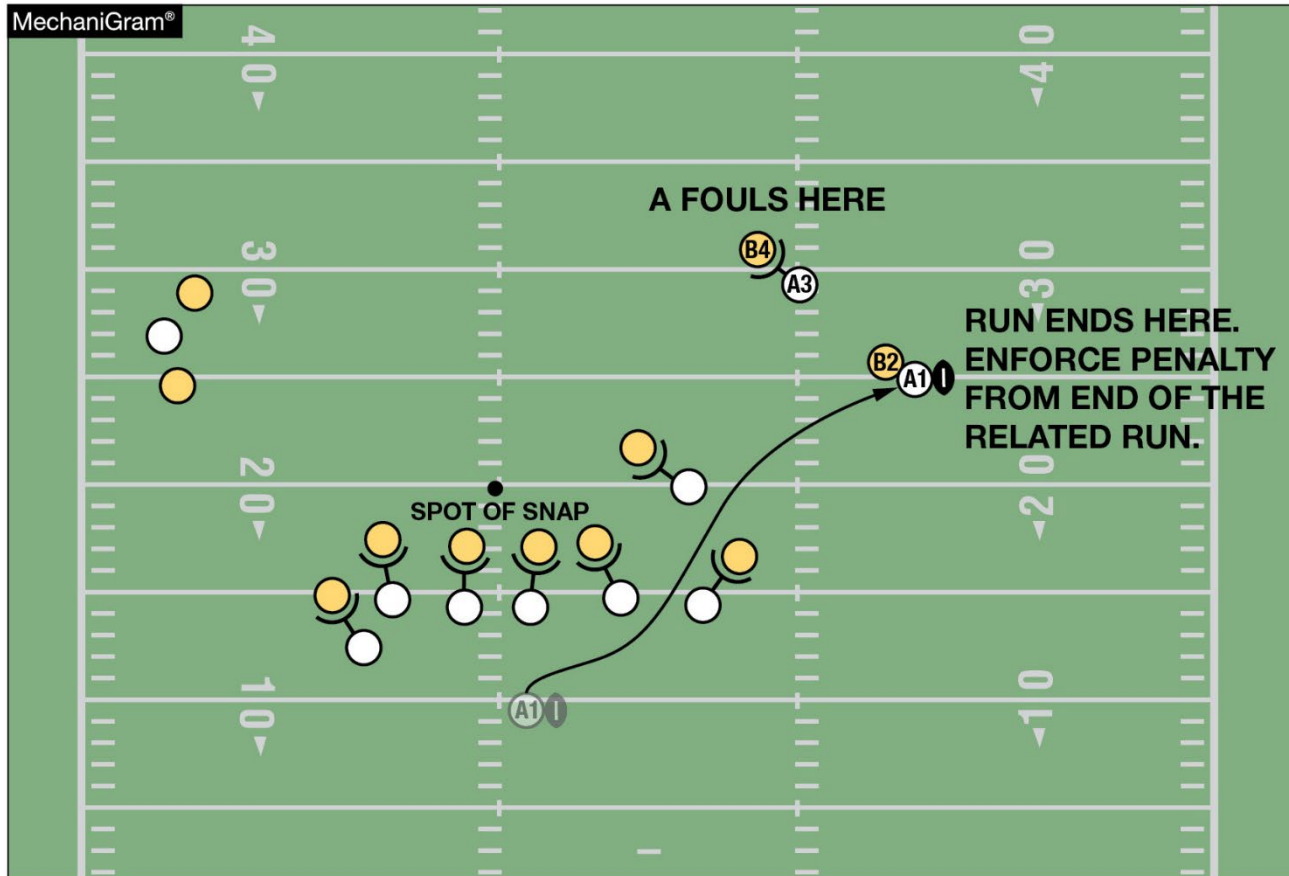
BASIC SPOTS RULE 10-4-6b



The basic spot is the end of the run or related run for a foul that occurs beyond the end of the run or related run following a change of possession.



BASIC SPOTS RULE 10-4-6c



The basic spot is the end of the run or related run for a foul by A that occurs beyond the line of scrimmage during a running play.



2024 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS



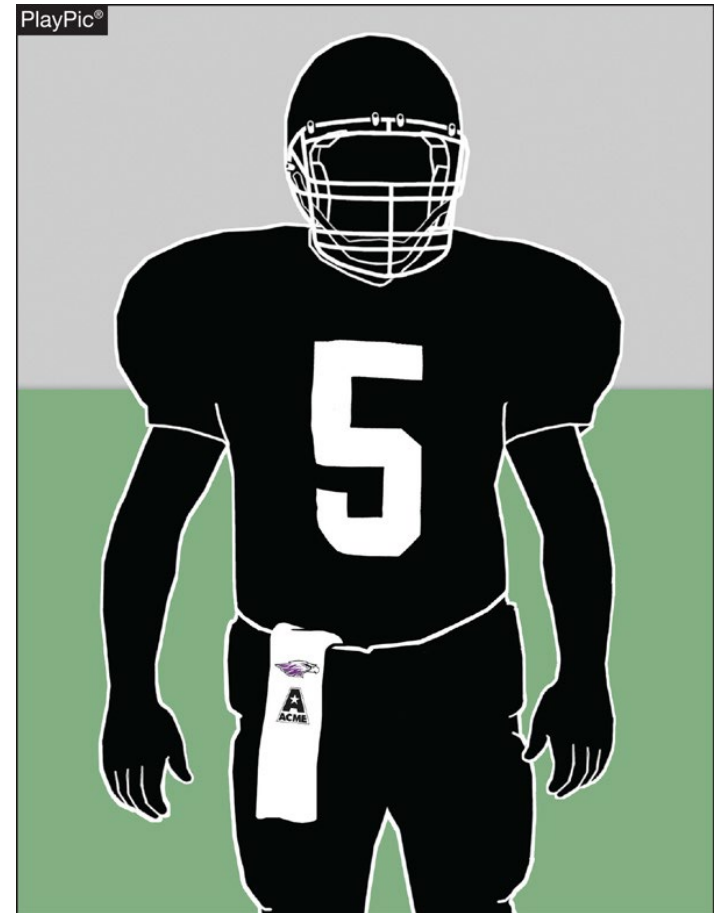
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UNIFORM ADORNMENTS - TOWELS

RULE 1-5-3a(5)a 4, 5

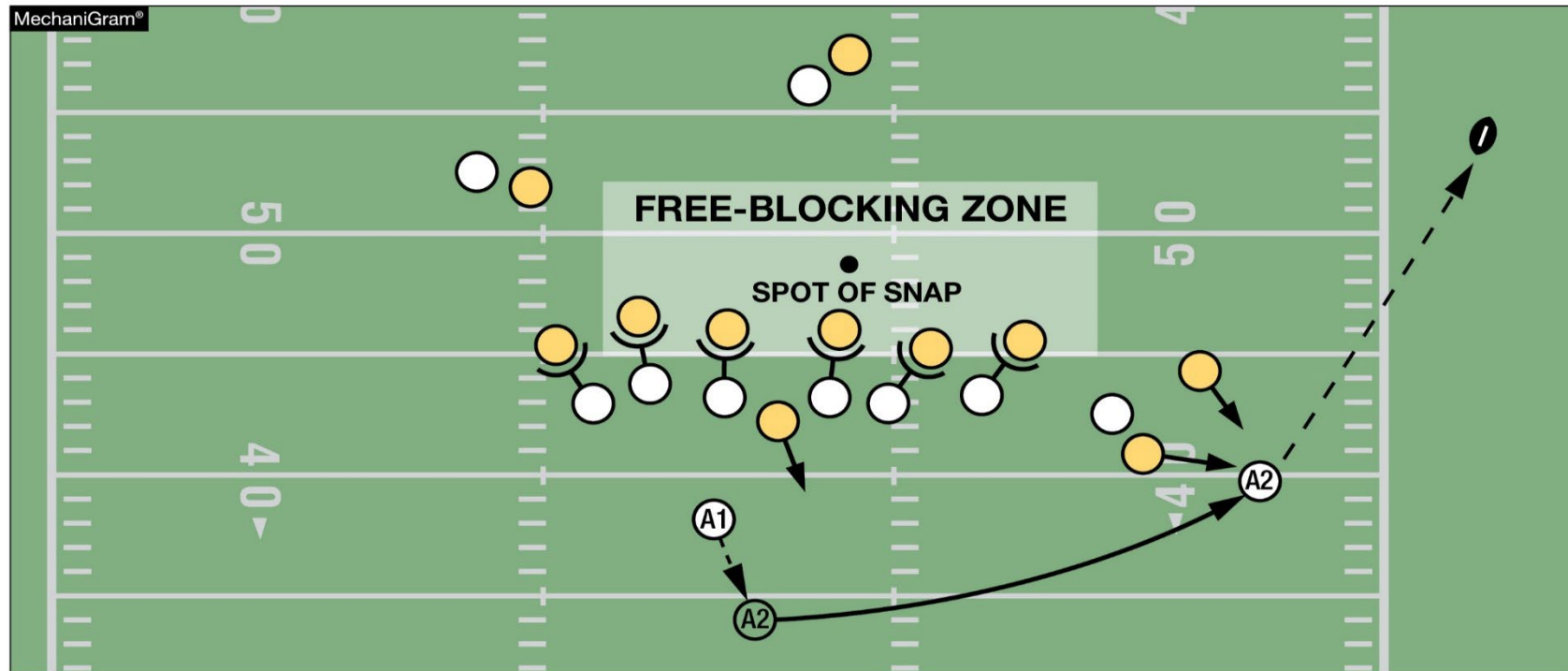
It is legal for a player to have one moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel that has no more than one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark reference that does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ square inches and does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in any dimension; and has no more than one school logo/trademark reference that does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ square inches and does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in any dimension.

Towels do not have to be the same solid color for each player.



INTENTIONAL GROUNDING EXCEPTION

RULE 7-5-2d EXCEPTION 2a, c, TABLE 7-5-2 d EXCEPTION 2a, c, TABLE 7-5 (1) d
EXCEPTION 2a, c



This is a foul for intentional grounding since A2 is the second player to possess the ball. Only the player who possessed the ball after the snap ends may take advantage of the intentional grounding exception.

NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK UPDATE



Current Logos

New Logo



Specifications

- Do not use the NFHS Authenticating Mark without prior written approval from the NFHS
- This mark is for use of licensees only.

Minimum size

- **Inflatable Balls - 2 ½"** (Football)
- On a ball, the NFHS logo may be smaller than manufacturer's logo, but should be placed in proximity to the manufacturer's name for easy identification. Allow enough space around the logo so it can be easily recognized as distinct and separate.
- Reproduce the logo only from the vector artwork provided here or on Direct Licensing Hub. Do not copy, scan art electronically or use as a template to redraw the symbol.

Note: If sizing or specifications do not work well in your particular design situation, contact K12 Licensing.

A current list of NFHS authenticated products can be found at www.nfhs.org, Resources, Authenticating Mark



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FOOTBALL NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK



OR



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2024 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



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2024 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship and Altercation Prevention and Protocol
2. Player Equipment and Enforcement
3. Formations



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SPORTSMANSHIP AND ALTERCATION PREVENTION AND PROTOCOL



Coaches must teach, promote, model and set clear standards of behavior for themselves, players and fans. Game officials must fairly and consistently enforce NFHS rules in all aspects related to unsporting behavior by coaches and participants. Everyone involved must clearly understand that education-based athletics is an extension of the classroom and is about more than just winning and losing.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND ALTERCATION PREVENTION AND PROTOCOL



Fights that escalate beyond the initial incident tend to do so because others run toward the fight. Coaches are urged to instruct their team and even practice what to do in case an altercation occurs.

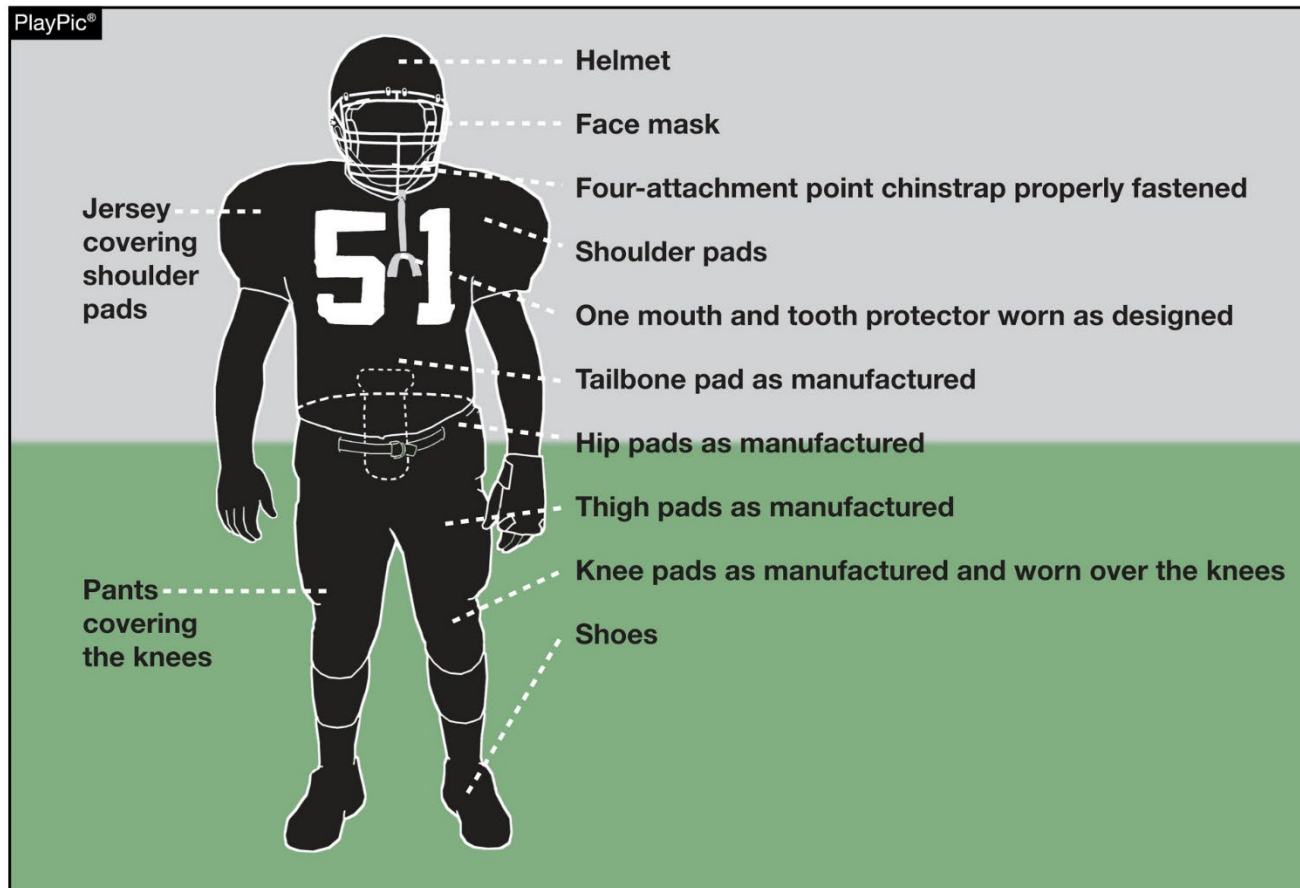
SPORTSMANSHIP AND ALTERCATION PREVENTION AND PROTOCOL



Postgame handshake line protocol should be followed by both teams. Among the points, administrators and security from both schools should be stationed on the field in close proximity to the handshake line. One team should be on the right and the other team should be on the left. Players from one team should not be allowed to walk down both sides of the line.



PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

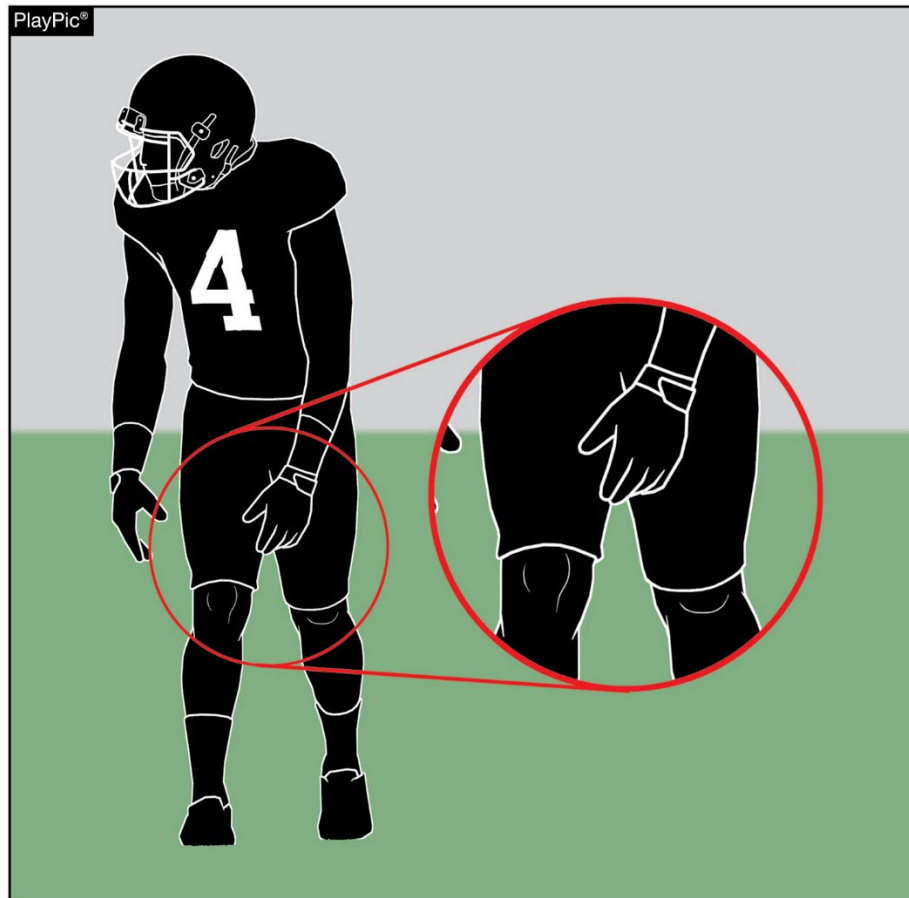


To support the safety of all participants, players must wear equipment and uniforms that are properly fitted and worn as intended by the manufacturer. Before starting each game, the head coach must verify that all players are properly and legally equipped.



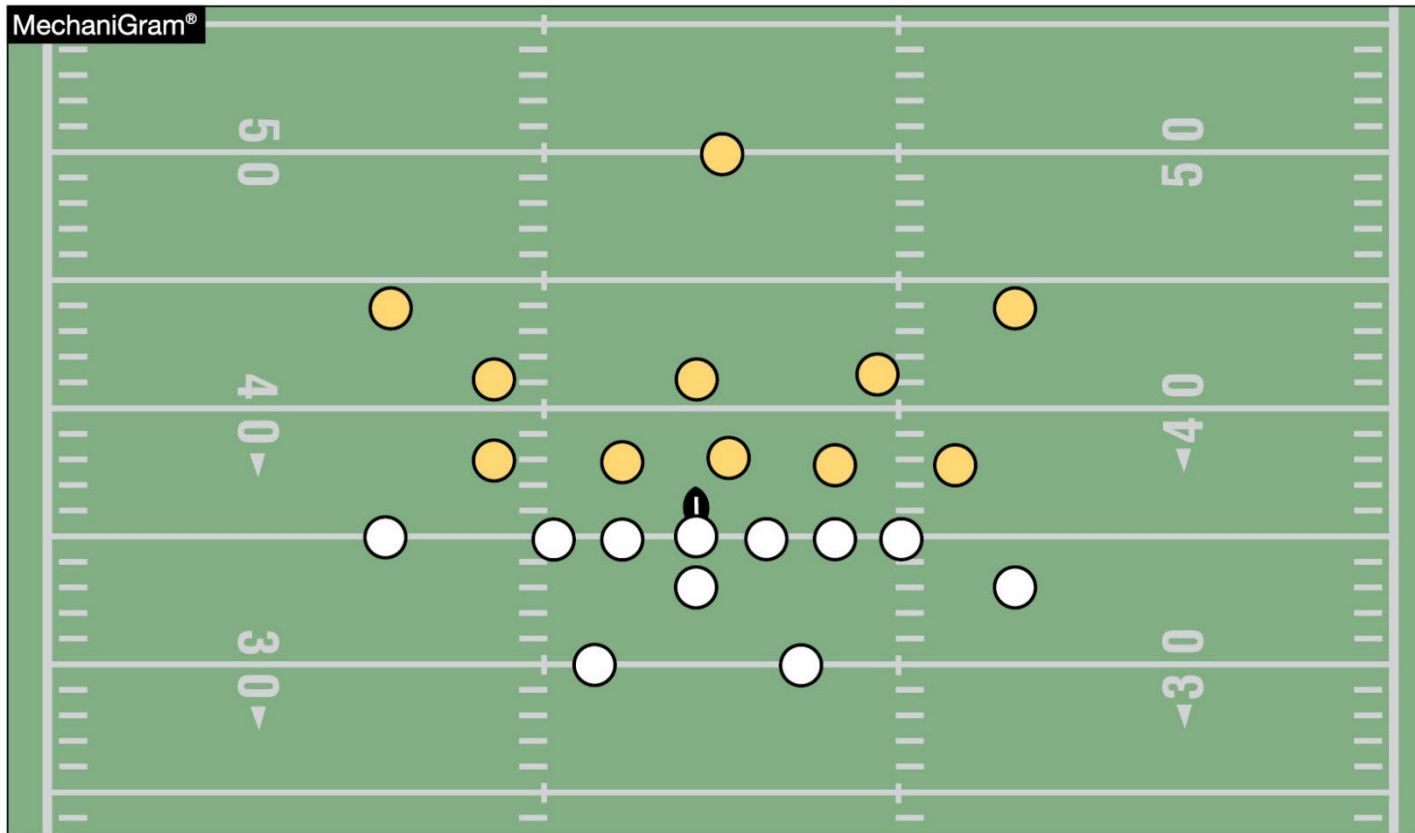
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PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT



Due to potential injury, it is essential that players only be allowed to participate if their pants and knee pads comply with the rules. Pants must completely cover the knees, and knee pads must be worn over the knee. Game officials should be watchful and proactive in addressing potential equipment, and more specifically, knee pad issues.

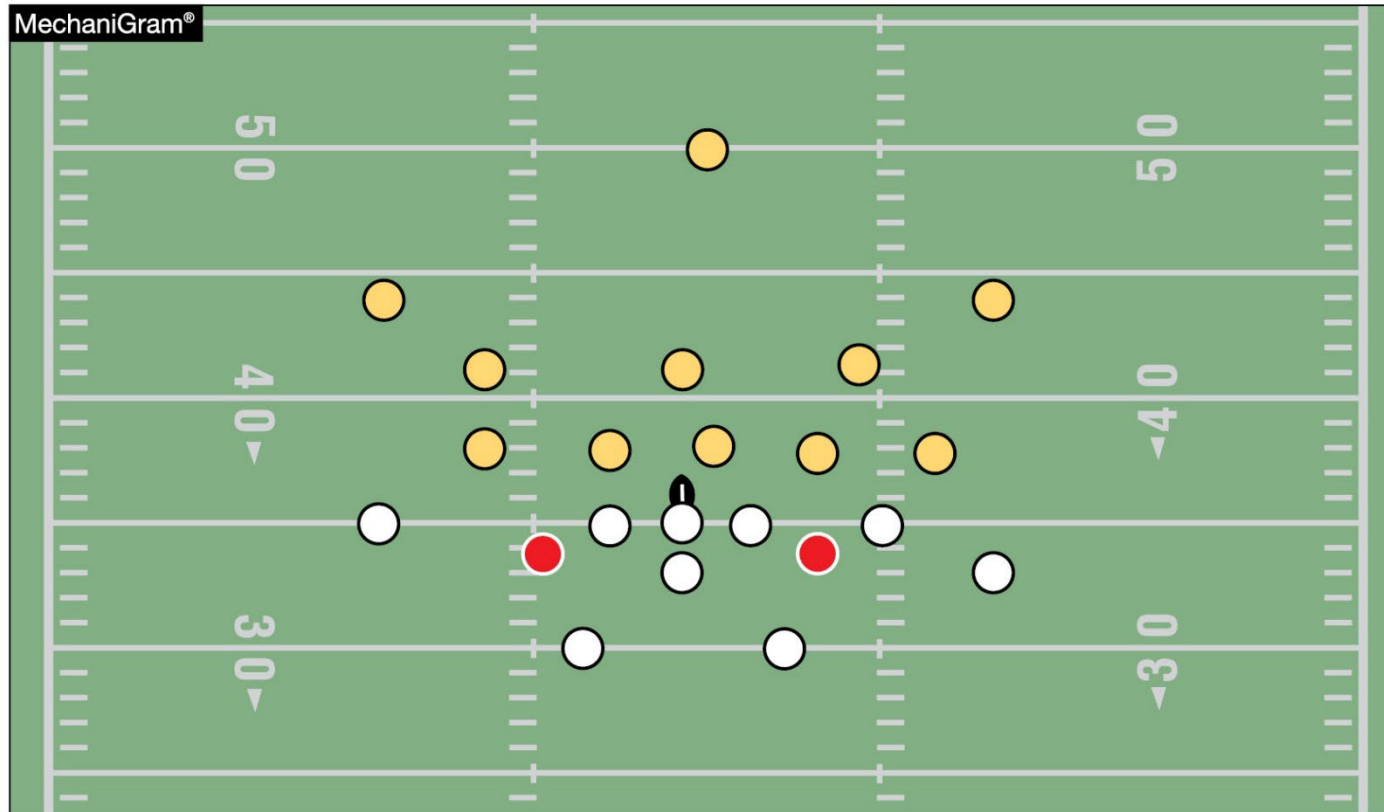
FORMATIONS



LEGAL

A legal formation has no more than four players in the backfield. A back is any A player who has no part of his body breaking the plane of an imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the nearest teammate who is legally on the line, except for the player under the snapper, who is also considered a back.

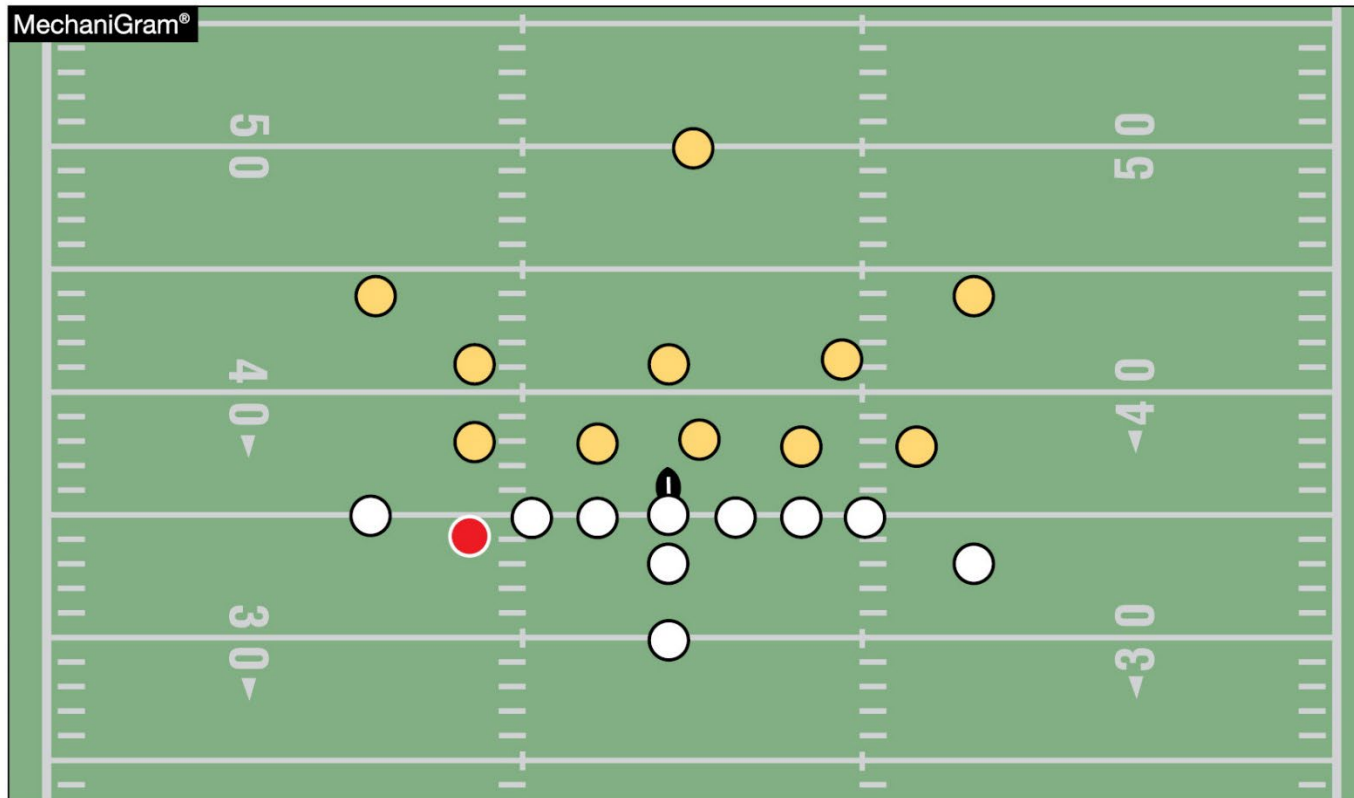
FORMATIONS



ILLEGAL - TACKLES OFF THE LINE

Linemen are legally on the line of scrimmage when they face their opponent's goal line and have head or foot breaking the imaginary plane through the waist of the snapper. It has become fairly common to see guards or tackles line up a yard or two off the ball to aid in pass blocking or pulling.

FORMATIONS



ILLEGAL - PLAYER NEITHER A LINEMAN NOR A BACK

If an offensive player lines up by intersecting the waistline of the tackle, but not the center, Team A has committed an illegal formation foul because all Team A players must be a lineman or back. Receivers who wish to line up as a back should have “daylight” between the rear end of the nearest lineman and their nearest body part.



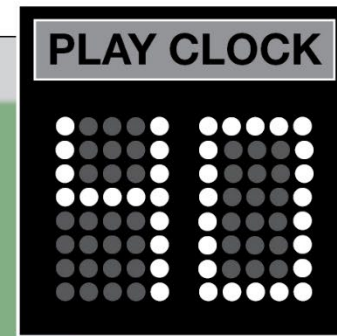
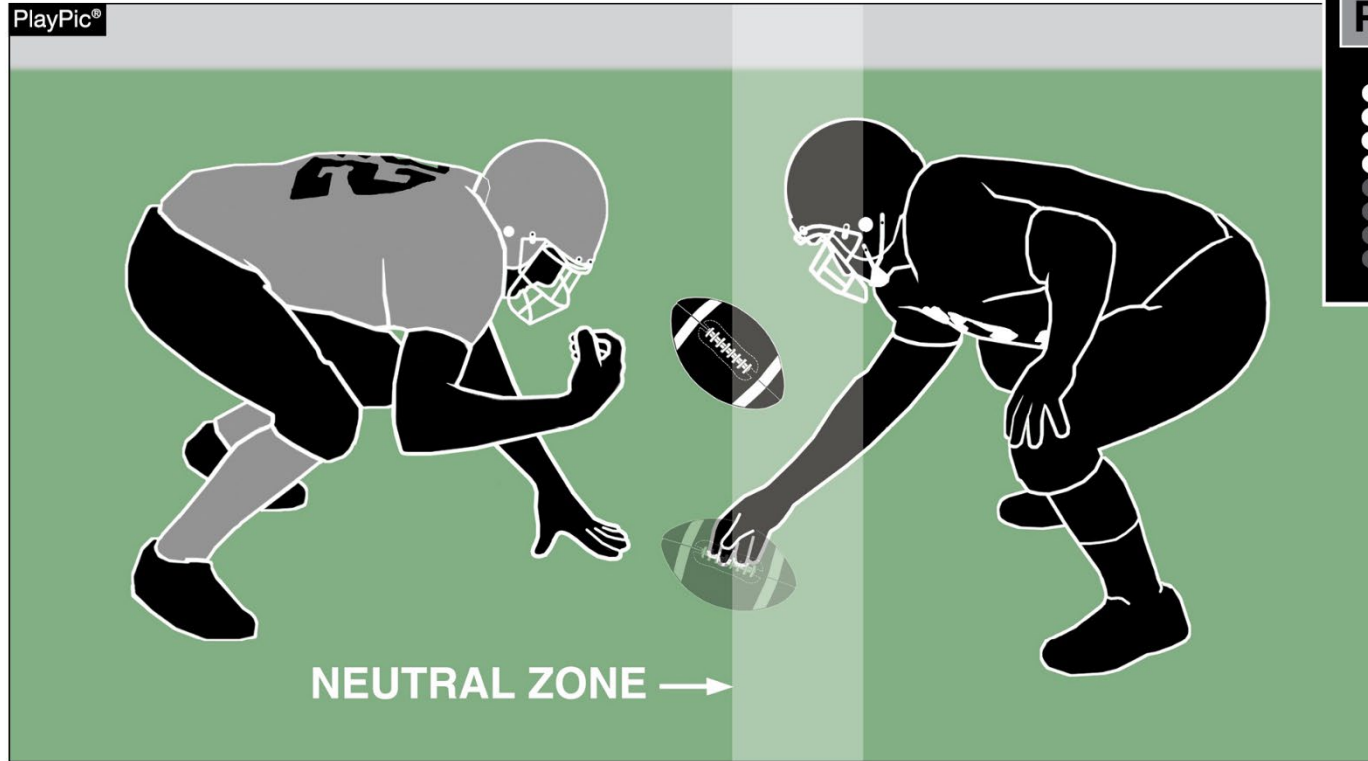
2024-25 NFHS FOOTBALL INFORMATION



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PLAY CLOCK RULE 3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTION 2. (NEW)



When the clock is stopped due to Rule 3-5-7i and Team B is the only team to foul, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds.



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HELPING THE RUNNER

Rule changes have been made at higher levels allowing offensive teams to pile in behind and directly push the runner. Similar plays are trickling down to the high school level. Allowing teams to help the runner by illegal techniques swings the balance heavily in favor of the offense. Pushing the pile is legal; direct contact and pushing, pulling, lifting of the runner is not.





MERCY RULE- HS AND MS

- NFHS Football Rule 3-1-2 (Mercy Rule); Beginning in the second half, if the point differential is 30 points or more, a continuous clock will be used. The clock will only stop for charged time-outs, injuries, and scores. The try will always be an un-timed down. The clock shall start when the ball is kicked on the kickoff. If the point differential goes below 30 points, go back to regular timing rules.
- Other timing changes must be approved by both coaches.



UNIFORMS - HS AND MS

- The jerseys of the home team shall be a dark color that clearly contrasts to white.
- The jerseys of the visiting team shall be white.
- Penalty – Unsportsmanlike charged to the Head Coach.
- At the Middle School level, the home team wearing dark and the visiting team wearing white does not apply.

DRONES

- Drones are the responsibility of the home administration. The only time the Referee gets involved would be if the drone gets too low and interferes with the game.



LED LIGHTS

Audio, video, and/or lighting systems operators shall not create any noise or distraction that inhibits a team from hearing its signals or obstructs play. LED light shows and audio through the sound system cannot be conducted during the coin toss, when the ball is marked ready for play (the 40- or 25-second play clock is running), or during a live ball. In the event that audio, video, and/or lighting systems are distracting during the times not allowed, a warning will be given by the Referee to the home administrator to stop the distraction. If this continues after the warning, an unsportsmanlike penalty will be charged to the home team and a written report will be sent to TSSAA by the Referee.



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2024 PLAY-OFFS

- Play-Off Information
- 7 Man Crews will be used for 2nd round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship games.
- In play-offs, play clocks must be run by registered football officials.
- Chain Crews will be run by the schools in the 1st and 2nd Rounds. Local Associations assign chain crews for quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship games.



2024 & 2025 TSSAA FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL



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2024 & 2025 TSSAA FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- 2024 was a print year for the TSSAA Football Game Officials Manual.
- Manual Will Be Used For Two Years
- Associations Cannot Use A Mechanic Unless It Is In The Manual
- Make Sure That Time Is Used During Your Meetings To Review Mechanics



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2024 & 2025 TSSAA FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- Umpire in the Offensive Backfield page 53-55
- Backward Punch page 13
- Forward Progress
- Wind twice when Forward Progress is stopped inbounds page 60,71,127,138



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2024 & 2025 TSSAA FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- Referee MUST catch the coin on the coin toss page 27
- Simulated Coin Toss Page 27
- When the game is over get off the field and back to the locker room as a crew.
- Ejections after the game, but prior to leaving the facility



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THANK YOU

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