

NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2009

Policies And Procedures Manual

For The Conduct of Football



NHIAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

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INTRODUCTION

This Football Policies and Procedures Manual is an annual publication of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association 251 Clinton Street Concord, NH 03301. Neither the whole nor part of this publication may be copied or reproduced and/or translated without first obtaining written permission from the publisher.

All schools must be aware of the NHIAA by-laws and policies relative to football which are published annually in the "NHIAA HANDBOOK" as well as the rules of the game published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

POINTS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS:

1. A regularly scheduled game cannot be forfeited by the individual schools (principals, athletic directors, coaches and others).
Current By-Law Article XVIII, Section 3C states: "The NHIAA and the Football Committee shall be notified at the first opportunity concerning postponement of a regularly scheduled football game, together with the intention to reschedule or cancel."
2. Schools that issue equipment to athletes for out-of-season use assume the liability for its use. Such equipment should be inspected prior to the season for reconditioning and safety.
3. Each coach should be familiar with the NHIAA By-law Article II, Section 10: Out-Of-Season Competition.
4. All pre-season jamborees must be sanctioned by the NHIAA in accordance with By-Law Article I, Section 25.
5. Football safety guidelines should be reviewed by each school and procedures developed for the safety of the players.
6. Medical coverage as described herein must be provided for all practices, jamborees, scrimmages and games at all levels of play.
7. The procedures for the awards ceremony after the conclusion of the Championship Games must be communicated to the players, coaches, spectators and media.
8. **SITE CRITERIA:**
Once the football playoff team selections have been made, a Football Committee member appointed by the Committee Chair shall make contact with the Athletic Director at the host school to determine if the criteria set forth below have been satisfied. This will be completed by 12:00 noon on the Tuesday of the week the game is to be played. In the event of inclement weather the field will be reevaluated by the football committee. In the event the Home school fails to meet the criteria, the other school in the playoff game shall be contacted to determine if they can satisfy the criteria. In the event neither school can satisfy the Committee requirements, the Committee shall seek out a neutral site to hold the game. This will be chosen from a predetermined list of neutral sites. Schools are reminded that monitoring proper field conditions is the responsibility of the school throughout the season (Refer to site criteria on page 5). Failure to meet the stated criteria can impact your school's ability to host playoff games.
9. **Public Address System:** The game director will ensure that a satisfactorily working public address system is available. A wireless microphone system may be used by the referee to announce infractions, penalties, and the offending team only. An announcer must also be provided. The game director should remind the announcer that "play by play" descriptions of the game are prohibited. Announcers are also to refrain from editorializing or promoting one team/player over another.
10. **TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS:** Schools are allowed to produce programs for the semi finals games at the home of the higher seed. For championship games at the turf fields, the host school will be responsible for producing programs in accordance with By-Law Article I Sect. 34.
11. **PRE-GAME CEREMONY:** Refer to page 26 for pre-game ceremony procedures.
12. **TRAINERS:** Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the trainer at all regular season and tournament events.
13. **Schedule Only (SO) games** will not count towards a school's standings.

14. Per NFHS Rule 1-6-1...Electronic communication equipment, other than an audio tape recorder, including but not limited to computer film, television and videotape or any type of still or moving pictures, shall not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods.
15. **GAME BALL:** The official game ball for the 2009-10 season will be **Spalding, J5V ADVANCE**.

NHIAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE **REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. MANAGEMENT:

The NHIAA and its Football Committee will manage and control the New Hampshire State High School Football Championship Series, under By-Law Article XVIII, Football.

2. SPONSORSHIP:

The NHIAA will sponsor, conduct and underwrite the New Hampshire State High School Football Championship Series and will receive all proceeds realized.

3. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Good sportsmanship is the number one (1) priority of the National Federation and the NHIAA. Coaches, athletic directors and principals should stress good sportsmanship from players, coaches and spectators and stress further that un-sportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Rule 1-1-5 of the National Federation Football Rules states, "Prior to the game the referee shall meet with the head coach(es) and captain(s) and explain that everyone is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship throughout the game."

The coaches will then be excused and the coin toss with the team captains will be held.

- **Crowd control**, safety and good sportsmanship are major concerns. It is the responsibility of school officials to insure these concerns are addressed. Guidelines for sportsmanship and a Code of Ethics for spectators are provided by the Sportsmanship Committee.
- **Disqualified Athletes:** A Disqualified athlete is not to be sent to the locker room or off the field unsupervised. If no supervision is available the disqualified athlete shall remain on the bench and become the coach's responsibility to supervise.

4. DUTY TO WARN:

There is an obligation to provide a safe playing environment and to warn student athletes of potential dangerous conditions. For football, these include proper fitting of helmets and pads, and warning against the use of the head in tackling and blocking.

Integral to this aspect of warning is the establishment of procedures for safety rules and regulations. (See Hold Harmless Form, Appendix A)

5. FIELD PREPARATION EXPENSES:

Field preparation expenses will only be approved by the Football Committee when a game of the Championship Series is played at a neutral site.

6. PRE-SEASON AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Football will not be permitted in the NHIAA member schools from the Saturday following Thanksgiving until the opening date of practice in the fall. A player must participate in five (5) calendar practice days before participating in a football game, scrimmage or jamboree.

Practice Requirement:

- First 3 calendar days of practice: Shoes, helmets and shoulder pads. No contact.
- Calendar days 4 and 5 of practice: Full pads permitted, contact with sleds and dummies allowed and limited player-to-player contact. i.e., contact within drills; no scrimmages.
- Calendar day 6 of practice: Full contact.

7. SUB-VARSITY GAMES:

No sub-varsity (freshmen, sophomore and junior varsity) games may be played on or after the first scheduled playoff game in that Division.

8. SAFETY GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines on football safety are recommended to ensure the protection of student athletes:

- A. Identify during the physical exam those athletes with a history of previous head or neck injuries.
- B. History of previous heat illness and type of training activities before organized practice begins should be included.
- C. Emphasis should be placed on proper conditioning exercises, which will strengthen the players' necks, in order to be able to hold their heads firmly erect while making contact during a tackle or block.
- D. Athletes should be drilled in the proper execution of the fundamentals of football, including blocking and tackling. Emphasis should be placed on the shoulder block and tackle and "keeping the head out of the football".
- E. Emphasis should be used to discourage the use of the head when blocking and tackling. The rules prohibiting spearing should be emphasized both in practices and in games. The players should be taught to respect the helmet as a protective device and not as a weapon.
- F. Emphasis should be placed on the proper fit of all equipment including the helmet.
- G. Coaches must be prepared for possible catastrophic injuries. Knowing what not to do is as important as knowing what to do.
- H. When a player shows signs of head trauma (loss of consciousness, visual disturbances, headache, inability to walk correctly, obvious disorientation, memory loss) the player should receive immediate medical attention and must not be allowed to return to practice, scrimmage or game without the written permission of a physician. The determined athlete may be reluctant to report discomfort.
- I. Temperature and humidity cause heat stroke and heat exhaustion, which can occur in the shade. Each school should develop hot and humid weather and pre-season guidelines which should include:
 - Having practice sessions during cooler temperature times of the day (morning and evening).
 - Acclimating players through carefully graduated practice sessions.
 - Providing access to water intake (one cup for every 20 minutes).
 - Providing for rest periods of 15 to 20 minutes per hour of practice.
- J. Each school should develop guidelines which should include:
 - Furnishing water with disposable drinking containers or individual water containers for each player.
 - Identifying signs of fatigue, lethargy, inattention, stupor and awkwardness.
 - Providing for individual towels.
- K. Athletes should weigh each day before and after practice and **WEIGHT CHARTS CHECKED**. Generally, a 3-percent (3%) weight loss through sweating is safe and over a 3-percent weight loss is in the danger zone. Over a 3-percent weight loss, the athlete should not be allowed to practice in hot and humid conditions. Observe them closely under all conditions.

9. CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS:

Schools shall be classified into divisions as approved by the Classification Committee. Enrollment groups plus petitions to higher enrollment groups shall be used to develop the divisional alignments. Schools must petition for placement into a higher division.

If the number of schools in a division is six or less after petitions, then schools will be reclassified.

2009-10 Football Classification					
Division I (1800+) 9 Schools		Division II (1290-1799) 9 Schools		Division III (950-1289) 9 Schools	
Pinkerton	3331	Spaulding	1768	Goffstown	1289
Nashua South	2287	Keene	1762	Bedford	1172
Salem	2263	Dover	1671	Con-Val	1087
Man. Memorial	2165	Exeter	1654	Portsmouth	1067
Man. Central	2159	Merrimack	1593	Pembroke	1045
Nashua North	2054	Timberlane	1590	Souhegan	970
Concord	1877	Alvirne	1518	Hollis/Brook.	952
Londonderry	1827	Winnacunnet	1324	*John Stark	890
Man. West	1809	*Bishop Guertin	885	*Milford	872
Division IV (740-949) 9 Schools		Division V (660-739) 9 Schools		Division VI (1-659) 11 Schools	
Kingswood	947	Epping-Newmarket	736	Fall Mountain	656
Kennett	945	St. Thomas	721	Campbell	575
Merr. Valley	884	Pelham	700	Gilford	572
Laconia	822	Bow	669	Winnisquam	567
Plymouth	817	Stevens	667	Raymond	522
Monadnock	787	Kearsarge	665	Farmington	487
Lebanon	761	*Somersworth	605	Franklin	477
Hanover	746	*Trinity	470	Mascoma	471
Sanborn	743	*Bishop Brady	443	Newfound	465
				Newport	461
				Inter-Lakes	441

10. CRITERIA OF PLAY:

No school may play another school more than once during the regular season except when the number of schools in a division is eight or less after petitions, then a school may play one other school twice during the regular season.

11. MERCY RULE:

Once the point spread reaches 35 and it is after the 2nd half, the clock will not be stopped except for penalties and scores. If the point spread goes below 35 after the 2nd half this rule will remain in effect. Whenever the point differential is equal to or greater than 35 at any time during the second half of play, the referee shall notify both head coaches of the implementation of the running clock rule. The game shall thereafter be played with a running clock with the following exceptions:

- The clock shall be stopped after a score and shall start in accordance with normal procedures on the ensuing kickoff.
- The clock shall be stopped if a team requests a time-out.
- The clock shall be stopped if a player is injured.
- The clock shall be stopped for penalty administration.
- The clock shall be stopped for measurement for a possible first down.
- Whenever the clock is stopped under this rule, it shall be started with the ready-for-play, except for a kickoff as specified above.

12. SITE CRITERIA:

- A. Once the football playoff team selections have been made, a Football Committee member appointed by the Committee Chair shall make contact with the Athletic Director at the host school to determine if the criteria set forth below have been satisfied. This will be completed by 12:00 noon on the Tuesday of the week the game is to be played. In the event of inclement weather the field will be reevaluated by the football committee.

In the event the Home school fails to meet the criteria, the other school in the playoff game shall be contacted to determine if they can satisfy the criteria.

In the event neither school can satisfy the Committee requirements, the Committee shall seek out a neutral site to hold the game. This will be chosen from a predetermined list of neutral sites.

- B. Suggested evaluation scoring of Criteria is Inadequate, Adequate, Exceptional, N/A.

- C. The NHIAA Football Committee shall set the highest concern for the following:

- i. Health and safety of participants
- ii. Comfort and safety of spectators
- iii. Receptivity and cooperativeness of personnel working at site

- D. The NHIAA Football Committee in conducting evaluations regarding the acceptability of a site for championship play shall consider the following criteria. The criteria are not listed in order of priority.

- i. Playing surface type
- ii. Playing surface condition
- iii. Playing surface lighting quality
- iv. Field dimensions as described by rule
- v. Field marking and yard markers as described by rule
- vi. Field Safety
 1. Minimum 5 yard out of play belt
 2. Benches must NOT be permanently anchored to ground
 3. Irrigation system condition
 4. Goal post padding proper
 5. Ambulance service availability and access
- vii. Site Security
 1. Physical plant crowd control
 2. Playing surface restraining barrier
 3. Police protection and assigned duties
 4. Area lighting: spectator and parking areas
- viii. Dressing facilities for both teams pre-game and intermission
- ix. Official's changing/meeting room
 1. Size
 2. Location
 3. Security
 4. Private Showers
- x. Seating condition and quantity
 1. Host side of field
 2. Guest side of field
 3. Handicapped accessibility
- xi. Parking
 1. Need
 2. Adequacy
 3. Alternatives
 4. Reserved handicapped
 5. Reserved game officials
 6. Reserved guest busses
 7. Security lighting

- xii. Ticket sales and collection
 - 1. Controlled facility/site access
 - 2. Security
 - a. Location
 - b. Structure
 - c. Lighting
 - 3. Staffing
 - 4. Advance sales procedure
 - xiii. Restrooms
 - 1. Number
 - 2. Location
 - 3. Handicapped accessibility
 - xiv. Electronics (Required)
 - 1. Public address system
 - 2. Time clock/scoreboard
 - xv. Auxiliary Structures
 - 1. Press box
 - 2. Home team scout box
 - 3. Guest team scout box
 - 4. Game taping
- E. The NHIAA Football Committee shall also give consideration to financial liability when selecting sites for championship play.
- i. Costs of facility and personnel associated with facility
 - ii. Cost of public safety personnel (fire and police)
 - iii. Relative travel requirement of participating schools
- F. If it is necessary, the Executive Director and/or the Football Committee Chairperson will visit the school site to evaluate the site criteria when necessary on the Monday prior to a Saturday's play off game. If it is decided that the school does not meet or can not meet the criteria to host the game, then the school has the right to appeal the decision to a sub-committee made up of five members of the Football Committee. The Chairman of the Football Committee will appoint these five members on the Tuesday prior to the play off game.
- G. Site Directors/Managers are encouraged to review "Appendix A" of this manual for more specific game administration key items.

13. CHEERLEADERS AND MASCOTS:

Spectators, cheerleaders, mascots, etc, are not permitted in team boxes or in the coach's areas. Cheerleaders and mascots are to be in the area restricted for them behind or behind and to the side of the team boxes, behind the restraining line, during the game.

14. DECALS AND LOGOS ON HELMETS:

The wearing of decals and logos on football helmets is limited to:

- A. School name, nickname, mascot or logo (no size limit).
- B. Warning label regarding the risk of injury (mandatory).
- C. Representation of a remembrance; good sportsmanship; special events or achievements (must not exceed a 1 ½ inch by 1 ½ inch square).
- D. Decals or logos that are of a commercial nature or support the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco products; are sexually explicit or implicit; are derogatory or obscene ARE NOT permitted.

15. JEWELRY AND BODY PIERCING RULE:

No jewelry, which includes body-piercing objects, shall be worn. Religious or medical alert medals must be properly secured under the uniform.

16. BENCH PERSONNEL:

For liability reasons Below Grade Nine students/children are not allowed to be on the team benches or on the sidelines at any regular season and tournament contest.

17. COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT:

Electronic communication equipment other than an audio tape recorder, including but not limited to computer, film, television, and videotape, shall not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods. Phones and headsets may be used by coaches and non-players ONLY.

**18. INTERRUPTED/SUSPENDED/CALLED GAMES:
REGULAR SEASON**

- A. Games that are interrupted or suspended by weather or other conditions beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority EXCEPT FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT, shall be continued from the point of interruption or suspension at a mutually agreed upon date, time and place unless the principals of the schools agree to terminate the game with the existing score, including ties.
- B. Games that are called by the game referee due to unsportsmanlike conduct before the start of the second half will be terminated and the game will not count nor be rescheduled and referred to the NHIA Football and Sportsmanship Committees.
- C. Games that are called by the game referee due to unsportsmanlike conduct after the start of the second half will be terminated with the existing score, including ties and referred to the NHIAA Football and Sportsmanship Committees.

19. TIE GAME PROCEDURES REGULAR SEASON AND CHAMPIONSHIP:

In case of a tie at the end of regulation time in any of the games of the regular season or Championship Series, a "tie breaker" system will be used to determine the game winner. (See Overtime Procedure, Appendix E)

20. SEEDING AND TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE:

In the event of a tie for a position, the Football Committee shall resolve the tie by using the following criteria:

- A. If two schools are tied for the final tournament position:
 - 1. The winner of head-to-head competition will be selected.
 - 2. The Football Point Rating System will be applied.
 - 3. The NHIAA Tie Breaker Procedure will be applied.
- B. If three or more schools are tied for the final tournament position:
 - 1. The rating in head-to-head competition will be used if all schools involved in the tie have competed against each other.
 - 2. The Football Point Rating System will be applied.
 - 3. The NHIAA Tie Breaker Procedure will be applied.
- C. If two or more schools tie for any other tournament position, the same criteria will be used, in order of priority to determine tournament seeding. Once a school is selected, the procedure will be repeated from the start of criteria A for the remaining tied schools. The NHIAA Tie Breaker will be applied.

21. POINT RATING SYSTEM:

The point rating system that will be used to break ties for playoff seeding purposes:

10 points per win

Out-of-state games and out of Division will not be rated

Opponents' Value earned as a result of wins or ties by opponents who were beaten or tied by a school:

	WIN	TIE
Beaten opponent	2	1
Tied opponent	1	.5

The point rating of a school will be determined by adding the total of "own value" plus "opponents' value" and dividing by the number of games played by the school.

Division I – VI will use the win/loss record to determine rating. Non-divisional and out-of-state games DO NOT count in the standings for all divisions.

22. BLOOD SPILLAGE AND BODY FLUIDS:

The NHIAA Sports Medicine Committee suggests that each school develop a local policy in cooperation with their local medical personnel, on how to handle blood spillage.

Housekeeping Procedures for Blood and Body Fluids

Disposable latex gloves should be worn to avoid contamination of the hands of the person cleaning spillages involving blood or other body fluids and secretions. Persons involved in cleaning contaminated surfaces should avoid exposure of open skin lesions or mucous membranes to blood or body fluids. A freshly prepared solution of dilute household bleach (one quarter cup of bleach diluted in one gallon of water) or other disinfectant labeled as *virucidal*, *Tuberculocidal*, *staphylocidal* is useful. Allow the disinfectant to stand wet for a minimum of one minute to start killing pathogens and disinfecting the area (10 minutes of disinfection time guarantees surface sterility). Whenever possible, disposable towels, tissues, and gloves should be used and properly discarded and mops should be rinsed in disinfectant.

INTERPRETATION OF EXCESSIVE BLEEDING

National Federation Rules call for a player, who is bleeding, has an open wound or excessive blood on the uniform, to leave the court/field.

The NHIAA interprets "excessive blood on the uniform" to mean that part of the uniform is saturated with blood. Saturated does not mean a wet spot. Saturated means a major portion of the garment is covered and soaked with blood. For this to occur, significant bleeding would have had to take place.

For any blood on uniform less than "saturated", the uniform does not have to be changed. School personnel have the responsibility of treating the blood area with the appropriate disinfecting solution before the athlete may participate. If the uniform is "saturated" with blood, the uniform must be changed before the athlete may participate. This interpretation is to be followed in the conduct of all NHIAA athletic events.

23. OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

LIGHTNING:

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect outdoor athletics. Within the United States, the National Severe Storm Laboratory (NSSL) estimates that 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike. Additionally, thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer.

The following guidelines are recommended:

- A. All athletic staff and game personnel are to monitor threatening weather. Establish a chain of command as to who makes the decision to remove a team or individual from athletic sites or events (athletic/site/event director, game officials/umpires, sports medicine staff?). An emergency plan should include planned instructions for participants as well as spectators.
- B. Be aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled athletic events or practices. Included here should include National Weather Service – issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings” as well as signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.
- C. Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area, and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location.

Safe structure or location is defined as:

- Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and /or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and **do not use** the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a

convertible or golf cart) and rolled up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!**

- D. WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR THUNDER OR SEE LIGHTING, SUSPEND ACTIVITIES AND GO TO A SAFE SHELTER OR LOCATION. **“IF YOU CAN SEE IT (LIGHTNING), FLEE IT (TAKE SHELTER). IF YOU CAN HEAR IT (THUNDER) CLEAR IT (SUSPEND ACTIVITIES).”** WAIT UNTIL 30 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST OBSERVED LIGHTNING OR THUNDER BEFORE RESUMING ACTIVITIES.
- E. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground, because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. **MINIMIZE YOUR BODY’S SURFACE AREA, AND MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND! DO NOT LIE FLAT!** Stay away from the tallest trees or objects (such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as bleachers or fences), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.

24. NHIAA GUIDELINES ON OZONE POLLUTION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

School Administrators and coaches as well as other appropriate staff are to use this document in making decisions regarding indoor and outdoor activities during periods of high ozone pollution.

CHARTING AIR QUALITY

Local officials use a simple scale to forecast and report on smog levels and other air pollution. Depending on where you live, it might be called Air Quality Index (AQI) or Pollutant Standards Index (PSI).

Current air quality is reported as a percentage of the federal health standard for a pollutant. If the current index is above 100, air pollution exceeds the level considered safe.

At Ozone smog levels above 100, children, asthmatics and other sensitive groups should limit strenuous exercise. Even otherwise healthy people should consider limiting vigorous exercise when ozone levels are at or above the health standard.

If the index is above 200, corresponding to an ozone pollution level of .20 parts per million (ppm), the pollution level is judged unhealthy for everyone. At this level, air pollution is a serious health concern. Everyone should avoid strenuous outdoor activity, as respiratory tract irritation can occur.

U.S. EPA Air Quality Index

Index Value	Descriptor	Color	1 hr. Ozone ppb
0 – 50	Good	Green	---
51 – 100	Moderate	Yellow	---
101 – 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	125 – 164
151 – 200	Unhealthy	Red	165 – 204
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple	205 – 404
301 – 500	Hazardous	Maroon	405 – 604

OBSERVING AIR QUALITY

- 1. Watch the Calendar
Ozone smog tends to be worst during the May – to – September “smog season.” Be especially conscious of smog levels during warm weather. In warm areas, smog can be a problem at any time of the year. Carbon monoxide pollution levels also are related to the weather, as well as to altitude. In the western U.S., the highest carbon monoxide levels are found in the winter months.
- 2. Watch the Clock
Since sunlight and time are necessary for ozone smog formation, the highest levels of ozone typically occur during the afternoon. Since carbon monoxide is produced primarily by motor vehicles, the highest

carbon monoxide levels usually occur during rush hour or during other traffic congestion situations.

3. Watch the News

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Observe appropriate physical activity restrictions represented above.
2. If an ozone exceedance is expected, but has not yet occurred at the time an interscholastic practice or contest is scheduled to begin, that event may begin as scheduled.
3. If an interscholastic practice or contest is scheduled to begin and an E.P.A. warning is in effect (PSI 201 or higher), the event shall be cancelled, delayed or rescheduled.
When ozone levels reach a national PSI level of 201 (.201 parts per million), exercising indoors or outdoors may cause significant respiratory tract irritation and a decline in lung function. Therefore, strenuous exercise indoors and outdoors is to cease.

RECOMMENDED RESTRICTION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The following limits on activity for each type of episode are as follows:

- A. Level Orange, PSI 101-150 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups)
 1. Active children and adults and people with heart or respiratory disease, such as asthma or allergies, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
 2. Healthy individuals with noticeable health effects associated with existing conditions should minimize outdoor activity.
- B. Level Red, PSI 151-200 (Unhealthy)
 1. All athletes should discontinue prolonged, vigorous exercise indoors and outdoors.
 2. Sensitive individuals, primarily children who are active outdoors and people with heart or respiratory disease such as asthma or allergies, should avoid indoor and outdoor activity.
 3. Indoor and outdoor activities that should be avoided include, but are not limited to, calisthenics, basketball, baseball, running, field hockey, soccer, football, tennis, swimming and diving.
- C. Level Purple, PSI 201-300 (Very Unhealthy)
 1. All athletes shall discontinue vigorous indoor and outdoor activities, regardless of duration.
 2. All indoor and outdoor physical education classes, sports practices and athletic competitions shall be rescheduled.

Note: Indoor practices may be held if an air-conditioned facility is available.



BRAIN INJURY IN ATHLETICS

Brain injury is the most frequent direct cause of death in athletics.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- An estimated 300,000 sports related traumatic head injuries occur each year.
- Some athletes with a traumatic brain injury will never have suffered unconsciousness or have signs of neurological deficit.
- Football, gymnastics, wrestling and ice hockey have the greatest risk per 100,000 participants of catastrophic head injury.
- Those who sustain one concussion are at a sixfold risk of suffering another.

FOOTBALL

- In any given season, 10% of all college players and 20% of high school football players sustain brain injuries.
- 70% of football players who are "knocked out" return to play that same day.
- From 1985 to 1994 there were 26 reported head related fatalities in organized high school football in the United States.
- From 1984 to 1995 there were 43 cases of high school football players with permanent cerebral injuries.
- Yearly, in the US, there are at least 250,000 cases of mild brain injury reported in football alone -many more go unreported.

OTHER SPORTS

- Soccer players can receive a brain injury from head-to-head contact, falls or being struck on the head with a ball.
- Heading the ball repeatedly in soccer can cause a concussion, especially when a small child uses too large a ball.
- Brain injury accounts for 46% of all winter sports injuries including skiing, ice hockey, sledding, and ice-skating.
- The head is involved in more baseball injuries than any other part of the body.
- Collisions, being hit with the ball, and sliding head first in baseball can cause serious brain injury.

SECOND IMPACT SYNDROME (SIS)

- Second Impact Syndrome occurs when a second brain injury is sustained before the initial injury has had time to heal.
- This second blow may be extremely minor, a light head tapping or even a blow to the body that causes the head to jerk.
- One half of those with SIS die as a result of the injury.
- The time from second impact to brainstem failure may be rapid, taking as little as two to five minutes-
- Between 1980 and 1993, there were 17 confirmed and 18 probable cases of SIS among American football players.
- Ice hockey, downhill skiing, and boxing have also reported cases of SIS.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTION

- Encourage athletes to report any and all head injury no matter how minor they think it might be. Emphasize the potential seriousness of head trauma.
- Refer to a physician if concussion is greater than a grade 1 or if symptoms persist (see attached concussion guidelines).
- Strictly follow the recommendations outlined for concussion management.
- Be conservative when evaluating "when to return to play".
- Adhere to proper equipment, conditioning, and fundamental skills training guidelines.
- National Federation of State High School Associations require written physician releases before a football player who has suffered loss of consciousness is allowed to resume practice or competition.

Note: All of the above information was taken from published medical literature. A reference list is available upon request from the Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth Medical School, 603/653-1135. **Permission to copy is granted.** 07/00

RECOGNIZING POSSIBLE BRAIN INJURY

A guide for parents, coaches, and athletes

Head injuries can have permanent consequences or can be fatal especially if they go undetected. Therefore, recognition of the injury is crucial. Any individual that has suffered a head injury and continues to exhibit any of the signs and symptoms listed below may suffer a severe life-threatening brain injury if a subsequent blow to the head (or body) is sustained. This is referred to as Second Impact Syndrome.

Second Impact Syndrome can occur even with mild head injuries, therefore it is essential to identify when an individual has received any type of brain injury so that further, more serious injury can be avoided.

It is crucial that athletes, parents and coaches be aware of signs and symptoms of a head injury. Ignoring a head injury, no matter how mild it might appear, can be dangerous. Please refer to the guidelines listed below for signs of possible brain injury.

SIGNS OF TROUBLE -contact your physician or go to the Emergency Department if you see any of these following a head injury. **Sometimes signs might not appear for several days or weeks.**

- Slurred or incoherent speech
- Vacant stare or befuddled facial expression
- Delayed verbal or motor response
- Difficulty focusing attention
- Observable lack of coordination (stumbling, inability to walk a straight line)
- Disorientation (walking in the wrong direction, unaware of time, date, or place.)
- Memory deficits
- Any loss of consciousness
- Persistent or severe headache
- Dizziness or vertigo
- Nausea and vomiting
- Easily fatigued or drowsy
- Irritability or anxiety
- Intolerance of bright lights and loud noises, possible vision difficulty and ringing in the ear
- Seizures or convulsions
- Bleeding or clear fluid from the nose or ears

***It is okay to sleep following a brain injury as long as the injured person is awakened every two to four hours. If the person is difficult to wake or is confused, contact a doctor immediately.

Remember that trauma to the brain no matter how mild can have severe consequences. DO NOT IGNORE THE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS. If there is any question, seek medical assistance immediately.

**For additional information please contact the
New Hampshire Brain Injury Association at (603) 225-8400.**

**The above information has been adapted from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Neurology, and the DHMC Emergency Department by the Injury Prevention Center, (603) 653-1135.

Permission to copy is granted.

APPENDIX A

“Guidelines for Hosting a Football Program”

- Good sportsmanship is the number one priority. Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals should stress good sportsmanship from players, coaches, and spectators, and further stress that un-sportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. A meeting is required with coaches, captains, and the referee prior to the game to address sportsmanship. **Sportsmanship Committee: Punching and slugging are defined as fighting.**
- Restraining Lines: A four (4) inch wide broken restraining line shall be placed around the playing field, two (2) or more yards from the playing field.
- Restraining Barriers: There shall be a restraining barrier surrounding the playing field at all regular season games and Games of the Championship Series. This barrier shall be run for the entire length of the playing field and end zones, and shall be at least five yards (preferably more) from the boundaries.
- Yard markers shall be located on BOTH sides of the field and should be placed on the two yard restraining lines.
- Cheerleaders/Mascots: Spectators, cheerleaders, mascots, etc., are not permitted in team boxes or the coaches areas. Cheerleaders and mascots are to be in the area restricted for them behind or behind and to the side of the team boxes behind the restraining line, during the game.
- Line to gain (chain) Crews should arrive on the field no later than twenty minutes prior to kick-off to meet with the heads linesman. The crew should be adult, physically capable of running, work the entire game and be impartial, as the chain crew is an extension of the officiating crew.
- Line to Gain equipment is to be in good working condition and highly visible. Chain Crew should have distinctive vests.
- Clock operators have to be responsible and attentive, and follow the referee’s signals and commands. Should the clock operator error or be unresponsive, the officials time shall be kept on the field.
- Escorting of Officials: Officials shall be "escorted" off and away from the field immediately following the conclusion of the game. Officials dressing/changing room shall be a private, “out of bounds” room that will be immediately accessible (unlocked) at the conclusion of the game.
- Drinking water with disposable drinking containers shall be provided and accessible during and at half time of the games.
- Game disqualification of a player shall result in the next game disqualification at the same level of play. Game disqualification of a coach shall result in disqualification of the next two games at the same level of play.
- There shall be a non-coach administrator at the game field representing the home team at all levels.

Prepared by Ernie Clark
Former Supervisor of Football Officials & Football Committee Member

APPENDIX B

**WARNING, AGREEMENT TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS
RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS**

(Both the applicant student and parent/guardian must read carefully and sign.)

I am aware that tackle football is a violent contact sport and that playing or practicing to play tackle football will be a dangerous activity involving **MANY RISKS OF INJURY**. I understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing to play tackle football include, but are not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the muscular skeletal system, and serious injury or impairment to other aspects of my body, general health and well-being. I understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing to play tackle football may result "not only" in serious injury, but in a serious impairment of my future abilities to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

Because of the dangers of tackle football, I recognize the importance of following coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training and other team rules, etc., and to agree to obey such instructions.

In consideration of the _____ School District permitting me to try out for the _____ High School football team and to engage in all activities related to the team, including but not limited to trying out, practicing, or playing tackle football, I hereby assume all the risks associated with tackle football and agree to hold the _____ School District, its employees, agents, representatives, coaches, and volunteers harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with my participation in any activities related to the _____ High School football team. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, and for all members of my family.

Date

Signature of student

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of _____, (student). I have read the above warning and release and understand its terms. I understand that tackle football is a **VIOLENT CONTACT SPORT** involving many **RISKS OF INJURY**, including but not limited to those risks outlined above.

In consideration of the _____ School District permitting my child/ward to try out for the _____ High School football team and to engage in all activities related to the team, including, but not limited to, trying out, practicing, or playing tackle football, I hereby agree to hold the _____ School District, its employees, agents, representatives, coaches, and volunteers, harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of every kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with participation of my child/ward in any activities related to the _____ High School football team. The terms hereof shall serve as a release for my heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, and for all members of my family.

Date

Signature of parent/legal guardian

APPENDIX C

HEAT STRESS AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Early fall football, cross country, soccer and field hockey practices are conducted in very hot and humid weather in many parts of the United States. Due to the equipment and uniform needed in football, most of the heat problems have been associated with football. During the 1998 season, there were four heat stroke deaths in football. There are no excises for deaths if the proper precautions are taken. During hot weather, the athlete is subject to the following:

HEAT CRAMPS - Painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.

HEAT SYNOCOPE - Weakness, fatigue, and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heat stroke.

HEAT EXHAUSTION (WATER DEPLETION) - Excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and core body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headaches and sometimes unconsciousness.

HEAT STROKE - An acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. Associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and a hot dry skin (heat stroke victims, contrary to popular belief, may sweat profusely).

It is believed that the above-mentioned heat stress problems can be controlled provided certain precautions are taken. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Sports Medicine, heat related illnesses are all preventable. (Sports Medicine: Health Care for Young Athletes, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1991). The following practices and precautions are recommended:

1. Each athlete should have a physical exam with a medical history when first entering a program and an annual health history update. History of previous heat illness and type of training activities before organized practice begins should be included. State high school association's recommendations should be followed.
2. It is clear that top physical performance can only be achieved by an athlete who is in top physical condition. Lack of physical fitness impairs the performance of an athlete who participates in high temperatures. Coaches should know the **PHYSICAL CONDITION** of their athletes and set practice schedules accordingly
3. Along with physical conditioning, the factor of acclimatizing to heat is important. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to the heat and it is essential to provide for **GRADUAL ACCLIMITIZARION TO HOT WEATHER**. It is necessary for an athlete to exercise in the heat if he/she is to become acclimatized to it. It is suggested that a graduated physical conditioning program be used and that 80 percent acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first seven to 10 days. Final states of acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first seven to 10 days. Final stages of acclimatization to heat are marked by increased sweating and reduced salt concentration in the sweat.
4. The old idea that water should be withheld from athletes during workouts has **NO SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**. The most important safeguard to the health of an athlete is the replacement of water. Water must be on the field and readily available to athletes at all times. It is recommended that a minimum of 10 minutes be scheduled for a water break every half hour of heavy exercise in the heat. **WATER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES**. Check and be sure athletes are drinking the water. Cold water is preferable. Drinking ample water before practices and games has also been found to aid performance in the heat.
5. Salt should be replaced daily. Modest salting of foods after practice or games will accomplish this purpose. Salt sables are not recommended. **ATTENTION MUST BE DIRECTED TO REPLACING WATER—FLUID REPLACEMENT IS ESSENTIAL**.
6. Know both the **TEMPERATURE** and the **HUMIDITY**. The greater the humidity, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or game using a wet bulb, globe, relative humidity index (WBGT Index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended when using the WBGT Index (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991):

Below 64...unlimited activity

65-72.... moderate risk

74-82.... high risk
 82+...very high risk

There is also a weather guide for activities that last for 30 minutes or more (Fox Matthews, 1981) which involves knowing the relative humidity and air temperature.

AIR TEMP	DANGER ZONE	CRITICAL ZONE
70 F	80% RH	100% RH
75 F	70% RH	100% RH
80 F	50% RH	80% RH
85 F	40% RH	68% RH
90 F	30% RH	55% RH
95 F	20% RH	40% RH
100 F	10% RH	30% RH

RH = Relative Humidity

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer which measures the bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice and the intensity and duration of practice adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

- Under 60 F...safe but always observe athletes
- 61-65 F.....observe players carefully
- 66-70 F.....caution
- 71-71 F.....shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks
- 75 + F.....danger level and extreme caution

7. Cooling by evaporation is proportional to the area of the skin exposed. In extremely hot and humid weather, reduce the amount of clothing covering the body as much as possible. NEVER USE RUBBERIZED CLOTHING.
8. Athletes should weight in each day before and after practice and WEIGHT CHARTS CHECKED. Generally, a 3% weight loss through sweating is safe and over a 3% weight loss is in the danger zone. Over a 3% weight loss that athlete should not be allowed to practice in hot and humid conditions. Observe the athletes closely under all conditions. Do not allow athletes to practice until they have adequately replaced their weight.
9. Observe athletes carefully for signs of trouble; particularly athletes who lose significant weight and the eager athlete who constantly competes are his/her capacity. Some trouble signs are nausea, incoherence, fatigue, vomiting, cramps, weak rapid pulse, visual disturbance and unsteadiness.
10. Teams that encounter hot weather during the season through travel or following and unseasonably cool period should be physically fit but will not be environmentally fit. Coaches in this situation should follow the above recommendations and substitute more frequently during games.
11. Know what to do in case of an emergency and have your emergency plans written with copies to all of your staff. Be familiar with immediate first aid practice and prearranged procedures for obtaining medical care, including ambulance service.

HEAT STROKE – *This is a medical emergency- DELAY COULD BE FATAL.*

Immediately cool the body while waiting for transfer to the hospital. Remove clothing and place ice bags on the next in the axilla (armpit) and on the groin area. An increasing number of medical personnel are now using a treatment for heat illness that involves applying either alcohol or cool water to the victim’s skin and vigorously fanning the body. The fanning causes evaporation and cooling. (Source, The First Aider – September 1987).

HEAT EXHAUSTION – *OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE AT ONCE.* Cool the body as you would for heat stroke while waiting for transfer to the hospital. Give fluids if athlete is able to swallow and is conscious.

SUMMARY – The main problem associated with exercising in the hot weather is water loss through sweating. Water loss is best replaced by allowing the athlete unrestricted access to water. Water breaks two or three times per hour is better than one break an hour. Probably the best method is to have water available at all times and allow athletes to drink water whenever he/she needs it. Never restrict the amount of water an athlete drinks, and be

sure the athletes are drinking the water. The small amount of salt lost in sweat is adequately replaced by salting foods at meals. Talk to your medical personnel concerning emergency treatment plans.

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APPENDIX D

REDUCING BRAIN AND SPINAL INJURIES

Brain and spinal injuries in football have been dramatically reduced since the rules were changed in 1976 to prohibit butt blocking and face tackling, and any other technique in which the helmet and facemask purposely received the brunt of the initial impact. There are still a small number of football players (and fewer in other sports) that become paralyzed, but the lesson to keep the head and face out of blocking and tackling remains.

Generally, about 3-5% of the injuries experienced by participants in athletics are concussions, e.g., temporary dizziness, confusion, nausea, headaches, and perhaps unconsciousness. Concussions are given from Grade 1 (a hit that dazes for a few minutes) to Grade 3 (unconscious). No concussion should be dismissed as minor until proven so by medical personnel. The task is to be sure that the athlete no longer has any sign or symptom of neurological distress, whatever the sport or game conditions. What is now called “sudden impact syndrome” with its high rate of morbidity if not mortality is the result of returning to play too soon.

Several suggestions for reducing brain and spinal injuries follow:

1. Preseason physical exams for all participants. Identify during the physical exam those athletes with a history of previous brain or spinal injuries. If the physician has any questions about the athlete's readiness to participate, the athlete should not be allowed to play.
2. A physician should be present at all games and practices. If it is not possible for a physician to be present at all games and practice sessions, emergency measures must be provided. The total staff should be organized in that each person will know what to do in case of a brain or spinal injury in a game or practice. Have a plan ready and have your staff prepared to implement that plan. Prevention of further injury is the main objective.
3. Athletes must be given proper conditioning exercises, which will strengthen their neck muscles in order for them to be able to hold their head firmly erect when making contact. Strong neck muscles help prevent neck injuries.
4. Coaches should drill athletes in the proper execution of the fundamentals of the football skills, particularly blocking and tackling. **KEEP THE HEAD OUT OF FOOTBALL.**
5. Coaches and officials should discourage the players from using their heads as battering rams. The rules prohibiting spearing should be enforced in practices and games. The players should be taught to respect the helmet as a protective device and that the helmet should not be used as a weapon.
6. All coaches, physicians and trainers should take special care to see that the players' equipment is properly fitted, particularly the helmet.
7. Strict enforcement of the rules of the game by both coaches and officials will help reduce serious injuries.
8. When a player has experienced or shown signs of brain trauma (loss of consciousness, visual disturbances, headache, inability to walk correctly, obvious disorientation, memory loss) he/she should receive immediate medical attention and should not be allowed to return to practice or game without permission from the proper medical authorities. Coaches should encourage players to let them know if they have any of the above-mentioned medical symptoms (that can't be seen by others, such as headaches) and why it is important.
9. Both athletes and their parents should be warned of the risks of injuries.
10. Coaches should not be hired if they do not have the training and experience needed to teach the skills of the sport and to properly train and develop the athletes for competition.

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2009 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

Point of Special Emphasis

➤ Tournament dates, sites and times

DIVISION I				
Semis:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/21/09	Higher Seeded Team	12:00 p.m.
DIVISION II				
Semis:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/21/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
DIVISION III				
Semis:	Sat.	11/07/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
DIVISION IV				
Semis:	Sat.	11/07/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
DIVISION V				
Semis:	Sat.	11/07/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
DIVISION VI				
Semis:	Sat.	11/14/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.
Finals:	Sat.	11/21/09	Higher Seeded Team	1:00 p.m.

NOTES: GAMES MAY START AT A LATER TIME WITH THE MUTUAL CONSENT OF BOTH SCHOOLS. The **NHIAA must be notified of any time change.**

A. **GAME DATES:** The dates for these games are to be adhered to unless there is a postponement, except in the case of a state televised championship game, which will be played as, scheduled. It is the responsibility of the Game Director to notify the Chairman of the Football Committee and the Executive Director of any change no later than the Tuesday prior to the scheduled game. The postponement day for these games will be the Sunday following the scheduled date.
By the mutual consent of both schools and with the approval of the Chairman of the Football Committee and the Executive Director non-televised playoff games, except for SAT Saturday may be played on Friday night.

B. **GAME SITES:** All semi final games will be played at the home site of the higher seeded (rated) schools. All final games will be played the home of the higher seed. All field prep charges are to be borne by the home team. The home school may keep all receipts generated from concession sales, 50-50 raffles, and program sales, etc.

In the event the home team is unable to host the game, the visiting team shall be given first refusal to 19

host. If the visiting team is unable to host, the Committee will select a neutral site to hold the game.

NOTE: Site Criteria MUST be met. (SEE regular season item XI)

C. **TEAM UNIFORMS:** The higher seeded school shall wear DARK uniforms and the lower seeded school shall wear WHITE uniforms for each game of the Championship Series.

D. **GAME FOOTBALLS:** Each school will furnish three (3) "official" footballs and the higher seeded school shall provide two (2) ball persons for each game of the Championship Series. **The official game ball of the NHIAA is Spaulding, J5V ADVANCE.**

I. **GAME DIRECTOR:** The Athletic Director, Faculty Manager, or other administrator appointed by the Principal of the higher seeded school will serve as Game Director for the games of the Championship Series. The Game Director will:

- Directly be in charge of the game and is responsible for hiring and supervising all personnel necessary for the administration of the game.
- Clear all matters of policy or regulation interpretations with the Football Committee and will be paid by the NHIAA at the current rate for services rendered.
- **Assign teams dressing rooms.** Each team shall be responsible for its own valuables.
- **Provide a dressing/waiting room for officials.** These areas will be "off limits" to others.
- **Police Protection:** At least two (2) police persons are required.
- Assign a police escort to Game Officials from the field of play to the Officials Room at half-time and upon completion of each Championship Series Game.
- **Shall call the Head Official to confirm the time of the game.** The Head Official is responsible to inform the crew. The Athletic Director will be notified on the Wednesday before the event of the crew from the NHIAA. Five (5) officials are to be engaged by the Football Committee and paid by the NHIAA at the current rate.
- **Public Address System:** The game director will ensure that a satisfactorily working public address system is available. A wireless microphone system may be used by the referee to announce infractions, penalties, and the offending team only. An announcer must also be provided. The game director should remind the announcer that "play by play" descriptions of the game are prohibited. Announcers are also to refrain from editorializing or promoting one team/player over another.

II. **ADMISSIONS:** Admission to the Championship Series will be by complimentary tickets, paid admissions, players, band members and NHIAA passes only.

A. **Complimentary Tickets**

School Administrators from each participating school will be issued complimentary passes in accordance with NHIAA policy.

B. **Players, Coaches, and Bench Passes:**

No competitor passes will be issued. All players must be in uniform and only Varsity and Junior Varsity players will be admitted to the bench.

Ten (10) bench area passes will be issued for coaches, assistant coaches, team physician, trainers, and managers.

Only certified football coaches of the participating schools will be permitted on the field and will be eligible to take part in the contest. Coaches of non-participating schools may not take part directly or indirectly in the Championship Series games.

C. **Cheerleaders:** A maximum of twenty cheerleaders in uniforms will be allowed for each participating school.

D. **Bands:** the school bands will provide Musical entertainment. The size of the band will be determined by the number of persons who perform in the majority of the games by the schools. No admission will be charged to band and color guard members dressed in uniform and the advisors or directors. Reserved seating shall be provided for both home and visiting bands.

E. **Paid Admissions:** Admission to the Semifinal and Final Games will be a charge of \$5.00 for students and senior citizens and \$7.00 for adults. Tickets purchased but not used WILL NOT be refunded.

III. **By-Law Article XVIII Sect. 2: Medical Coverage:**

- A. A **licensed** physician, trainer, or emergency medical technician must be provided by the host school and in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic football jamborees, scrimmages, and games for all levels, varsity and sub-varsity, during the regular season and all tournament round games.
- B. Medical coverage, as stated under By-Law I, Section 17, must be provided for all levels of practice (varsity and sub-varsity) involving player contact.
- C. The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school has its own physician, trainer, or emergency medical technician.
- D. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice.
- E. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game and possible disciplinary action by the Football Committee.

Note: **Student trainers, high school or college, cannot be used to meet the provisions of this By-Law.**

NOTE: The hired medical person shall be the responsible medical person for both schools unless the visiting school has its own licensed trainer. For games of the regular season, the visiting school may defer to its own licensed medical person but the host school cannot defer to the licensed medical person of the visiting school unless agreed upon.

- IV. **AMBULANCE SERVICE:** Provisions must be made by the home school to call for ambulance service to the game site if a need arises. An ambulance may be stationed at the site throughout the game provided there are no charges submitted to the NHIAA.
- V. **PROGRAMS:** Schools are allowed to produce programs for the semi finals games at the home of the higher seed. For championship games at the turf fields, the host school will be responsible for producing programs in accordance with By-Law Article I Sect. 34.
- VI. **FIFTY-FIFTY (50/50) RAFFLES:** Fifty-Fifty (50/50) raffle drawings are permitted at the "home" site of an NHIAA member school hosting a play-off game. (Students **may not** sell Tickets.)
- VII. **PRESS BOX:** All press passes will be issued from the NHIAA office and will include the Football Committee, announcer, spotters, and media personnel. The Game Director may issue additional press passes based upon the press box facilities. Space will be provided for both the home team and, if desired, the visiting team for spotters.
- VIII. **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES:** Media representatives approved for the sidelines are restricted to the areas between the 25 yard lines and the end zones and the end zone areas, providing they are at least two (2) yards from the out-of-bounds lines, behind a broken line equidistant from the field as the rear line of the coaches' box.
- IX. **SCOREBOARD/OFFICIAL PLAYING TIME:** For each game of the Championship Series, a Scoreboard with a clock will be provided on the site. The clock will be the "official" time unless it is mutually agreed upon by the opposing schools and the referee to be the "unofficial" time.
- X. **PRE-GAME PROCEDURES:**
 - In order to minimize on-field distractions, and maximize time to repair defective or unapproved player equipment, the Referee, Umpire, and Head Coach meetings shall take place 70-80 minutes before game time, preferable in an off field location.
 - A minimum of 90 minutes prior to game time it shall be the joint responsibility of the referee,, the host Athletic Director and both Head Coaches to coordinate and determine the location for respective pre game conferences. Should one or both of these conferences not take place prior to warm-up, the

Referee and Umpire shall meet with each head coach on the field prior to the game to complete these required activities.

- **80 Minutes Prior To Game Time- Home Team:** The home team's head coach shall meet with the Referee and Umpire at the previously designated location and the certification of player equipment and pre game conference shall be conducted.
- **70 Minutes Prior To Game Time- Visiting Team:** The visiting teams' head coach shall meet with the Referee and Umpire at the previously designated location and the certification of player equipment and pre game conference shall be conducted.

During these meetings, the following topics will be addressed:

- a. Verification of legality of player equipment
- b. Review and approval of any specific equipment, casts, etc.
 - Reminder: Any cast worn on the arm (elbow and below) requires a note from a medical doctor (not trainer) specifically stating the player may participate in football. A copy of the note shall be given to the Referee, attached to the game report and submitted to the NHFOA Commissioner.
 - It will be the coach's responsibility to bring any player who requires equipment inspection to the official's at this time.
- c. Lists of game officials names to head coach
- d. Official time and when captains are expected to be ready for coin-toss
- e. Review length of half-time and any special pre-game procedures by teams
- f. Approval of game balls (coaches are required to bring all footballs requesting to be used in the game)
- g. Verification of certified trainer and procedure (with home team coach or Athletic Director)
- h. NHIAA Sportsmanship Review
- i. Questions and special plays

XI. TELEVISED GAMES: Special electrical needs may be required at the host site for the commercial televising of Championship Games which the host school is responsible to provide.

- There is no NHIAA jurisdiction over regular season broad-casting of high school athletic competition. Sponsors of broadcasts must not be persons or businesses involved with tobacco or alcoholic beverages and related products.
- For tournament events held at the site of the higher seeded team, the Athletic Director or Game Director is to be contacted directly to make the necessary broadcasting arrangements. Radio Broadcasting Fees are set at \$50.00 per event. The fee is applicable for stations who pick up fees from another station.
- Television stations are instructed to contact the NHIAA directly regarding permission to televise, in any manner - live; delayed; cable; etc..., any NHIAA tournament event. Tournament events under contract with a television station will have exclusive rights to the "live" telecast. No other "live" events may be broadcast simultaneously.
- Cablevision may purchase the broadcast directly from the station for a fee of \$150.00. The NHIAA has the current listing of the tournament events to be televised LIVE under contract for the current year. Cablevision broadcast fees are set at \$100 for all events other than the stipulation above.
- There is no fee for a non-commercial broadcast by a member school owned and operated non-profit television station.
- **TELEVISION TIMEOUTS:** A television time-out during the one minute intermission between periods and the one minute time-out following a score or try, and prior to the succeeding free kick may be taken as follows:

- a. A television time-out is not charged to either team. Regular charged time-out privileges are allowed.
- b. A one minute time-out is allowed during the intermission between the 1st and 2nd period and the 3rd and 4th period and following a score or try, and prior to the succeeding free kick. Such time-out is not charged to either team. Regular charged time-out and authorized conference privileges are allowed but must be completed during the one minute so the start of the next period or the free kick is not delayed.

NOTE: No television time-outs are permitted during the last three minutes of the game. 22

- XII. **BANDS AND MARCHING UNITS (HALFTIME ENTERTAINMENT):** For each game of the Championship Series, unless the competing schools agree otherwise, the National Anthem will be played by the band of the Home School and the half-time show will be shared equally by both bands.
- There will be a 20-minute intermission and each band will be allowed no more than ten (10) minutes to prepare, perform, and exit from the field.
- XIII. **PROTEST PROCEDURE AT STATE TOURNAMENTS:** During State Tournament play, there shall be no appeals or protests to the Executive Director. All protests shall be resolved at the game site at the time of the protest, by the game officials, director and the committee representation. .
- XIV. **AWARDS:** NHIAA awards will be presented at the end of the Final Championship Series game.
- Official NHIAA championship and runner-up plaques, in addition to forty-five (45) individual medals, will be awarded to the respective champion and runner-up teams in each division. Medals over forty-five (45) in number are the responsibility of the respective schools and they may be purchased through the NHIAA Office.
- XV. **PROCEDURES FOR POSTPONED GAMES**
The procedure to be used in the event your game scheduled to be played has been rescheduled:
- A. As the host school your responsibility is to determine whether the game is to be played. You may wish to speak with the visiting school on Friday if inclement weather is predicted for Saturday.
 - B. If a decision is made to postpone, every effort must be made to play on Sunday.
 - C. Once the decision is made it will be your responsibility to contact the visiting school, any game personnel involved, including medical personnel, and the Referee. The Referee will call the crew.
- XVI. **WEATHER/INTERRUPTED/SUSPENDED/CALLED GAMES:**
- The Game Manager shall consult with the officials from schools, athletic directors and/or principals, and the referee before making a decision.
 - Games that are interrupted or suspended due to weather or other emergency beyond the control of the Game Director shall be continued from the point of interruption or suspension on the same date or the scheduled postponement date as determined by the Game Director and representative from both schools.
 - The principals of the schools may agree to terminate the game with the existing score. If the score is tied, the Football Committee shall make a determination of further play.
 - Games that are called by the game referee for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be terminated or continued as determined by the Football Committee after conferring with the Supervisor of Football Officials, Executive Director of the NHIAA and the principals of both schools.
 - All matters relative to unsportsmanlike conduct shall be referred to the Sportsmanship Committee and Sports Officiating Committee for review and any further action as described under current by-laws.

APPENDIX E

OVERTIME PROCEDURES

If, at the end of the fourth quarter, the teams have identical scores, the tie will be resolved by following the "10 YARD OVERTIME PROCEDURE" of the National Federation of State High School Associations as follows:

The referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be a three-minute intermission during which both teams may confer with their coaches. The number of second half time outs remaining will be determined. Each team will be given one time out for each overtime period plus any unused second half regulation game time outs and both coaches will be notified. Both team captains will meet at the center of the field for the coin toss.

At the coin toss, the visiting team will be given the privilege of calling the coin while it is in the air. The winner of the coin toss will be given the choice of defense or offense, or of designating the end of the field at which the ball will be put into play.

At the start of the overtime, the offensive team shall put the ball in play, first and goal on the defense's ten yard line anywhere between the inbound lines. The offense shall have a series of four downs. The series of downs will be terminated by any score by the offense or if the defense gains possession of the ball.

The offense will be given a new series of downs when:

- a. the penalty for defensive pass interference is accepted.
- b. the offensive team recovers a scrimmage kick (field goal attempt) between the goal lines after it has been first touched by the defense beyond the neutral zone.
- c. the defense is guilty of roughing the kicker, place kick holder or passer.

When a team scores a touchdown, it is entitled to the opportunity to attempt the extra point(s), except when it is unnecessary to break the tie.

A field goal attempt is permitted during any down. If the defensive team gains possession of the ball, the ball becomes dead immediately and the offense's series of downs is ended.

After the offense has completed its series of downs, the defensive team becomes the offense and shall have the ball in its possession at the same ten yard line anywhere between the inbound lines.

If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series of downs, the procedure shall be repeated with additional overtime periods until a winner is determined. There will be a two minute intermission between overtime periods during which the loser of the coin toss will be given the choice of options. The choice will be alternated for additional overtime periods.

The team scoring the greater number of points in the overtime shall be declared the winner and the final score shall be the total of all points scored by each team during the regulation game and the overtime period(s).

[Written with permission of the National Federation of State High School Associations; P.O. Box 690; Indianapolis, Indiana 46206]

APPENDIX F
PRE-GAME CEREMONY

The NHIAA Football Committee recommends the following procedures be used as part of the pre-game ceremonies for all games of the Championship Series.

1. Five minutes prior to the designated game time, teams will assemble at the bench area as designated by the Game Director.
2. The officials will call the captains of the participating teams to the center of the field for the flip of the coin during pre-game warm-ups.
3. If possible, the band of the highest seeded team will play the National Anthem while both teams are assembled in front of their benches.
4. The Announcer will then announce:
" _____ School has won the toss and has elected to _____ and will defend the _____ goal."
5. The Announcer will introduce the five (5) game officials who are to be located on the press box side of the field at the 50-yard line by saying:

"The officials for today's game are:

Referee: _____

Umpire: _____

Field Judge: _____

Back Judge: _____

Head Linesman: _____

The _____ Clock will be the official game clock. The following

6. Sportsmanship Message is to be given over the public address system: "Good (afternoon/evening) everyone and welcome to the NHIAA Division (I, II, III, IV, V and VI) (semifinal or championship) football game.

The NHIAA Football Committee and the playoff staff here at ____ (site) realize what a special moment this is for the players, coaches and fans to have your school playing in a state championship event. We ask your cooperation in making this event as meaningful as possible for the students involved.

Let us be positive in every aspect of this game: Good sportsmanship from the players and the fans, positive cheering only, and respect by everyone for the officials working the game. We also ask that you please stay off the field at the end of the game.

APPENDIX H

2009 NFHS Football Rules Changes

1-2-3b NOTE 2 (NEW): All required field markings must be clearly visible.

1-3-1c: Stripes located on the football must be adjacent to and perpendicular to the seam upon which the laces are stitched.

2-14-2; 7-2-5: The definition of a scrimmage-kick formation was clarified to differentiate formations that have been used traditionally for attempting a field goal or kick try from those used for a punt. The circumstances under which the numbering exception can be used have been changed to clarify what can be done on first, second, third and fourth downs.

Table 3-1; 9-8-1g: The mandatory three-minute warm-up period begins immediately following the conclusion of the halftime intermission. The head coach of each team is responsible for his team being on the field for the warm-up period.

3-3-4b5 (NEW): If a penalty resulting in a safety occurs on the last timed down of a period, the period is not extended.

8-2-2; 8-2-3; 8-2-4 (NEW); 10-5-1f: Three rules were refined and a new article created regarding penalty enforcement for dead-ball, non-player or unsportsmanlike fouls that occur during or after a touchdown scoring play. Now, the scoring team, in most situations, has the option of enforcing the penalty on the subsequent kickoff.

9-4-3h: It is now illegal to grasp the opponent's chin strap.

9-4-3k (NEW): The horse-collar tackle has been added to the list of illegal personal contact fouls, regardless of where it occurs on the field. It is illegal to grasp the inside back or side opening of the collar of the jersey or shoulder pads of the runner and subsequently pull the runner to the ground.

9-7-2 EXCEPTION: The kicking team cannot bat a scrimmage kick that has not yet been grounded unless it is toward its own goal line. Scrimmage kicks may only be batted by the kicking team towards its own goal line.

1-2-3g; 9-8-3: A restricted area has been defined where a maximum of three coaches may communicate with players and substitutes during dead-ball situations. The coaches must move into the team box before the ball becomes live. There will no longer be an allowance for three coaches to remain in an area adjacent to the sideline during play.

Editorial and Other Changes

1-2-1; 1-2-3d; 1-3-1f; 1-5-1c(5b, 6b); 1-5-1i; 1-5-3a, b, c; 1-5-3k, l, n, o (NEW); 2-11; 2-16-2h; 2-35; 2-41-1, 9; 3-3-4b; 3-3-4b NOTE; 3-4-3j (NEW); 3-5-10c; 6-2-1; 7-5-2; 7-5-6a; 8-2-2, 3; 8-5-2a EXCEPTION; 9-4 PENALTY; 9-8-1; 9-9 PENALTY NOTE; 10-2-2b; 10-2-3; 10-4-2c; 10-5-1f; 10-6; FUNDAMENTALS: II-5, II-6 (NEW), IV-6, IX-3, X-4; OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS 15, 25 (NEW)

Points of Emphasis

1. NFHS Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances
2. Illegal Personal Contact
3. Blocking and Illegal Blocks
4. Helmet and Face Mask
5. Uniforms
6. Sportsmanship

