

DEAR FOOTBALL COACHES & OFFICIALS,

AUGUST 16, 2007

I hope each of you took the opportunity to attend one of our state-sponsored rules meetings. This letter will serve as a refresher for those who were in attendance at one of our meetings. For those of you who did not attend a meeting, this letter will inform you of this year's rule changes and Points of Emphasis.

HEAD COACHES, if any of you were NOT in attendance at one of our meetings, the make-up football meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the IHSAA Office in Boone. If you were not in attendance at an IHSAA-sponsored rules meeting and you do not attend the makeup meeting, you **WILL NOT** be able to coach your team during the playoffs if your team qualifies.

OFFICIALS, if you did not attend one of the IHSAA sponsored rules meetings, you are NOT eligible to be considered for playoff assignment.

PRE-SEASON REMINDERS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: PLEASE visit with your Clock Operators and Chain Gang before the season starts. Request that they need to **be on the field 15 minutes prior to game time** to receive instructions from the Referee and Linesman. In the past we have had numerous reports where these parties have arrived just shortly before kick-off and our officials have been unable to instruct them before the game is to begin. We appreciate your attention to this matter!

1. **MEETING FOLDER.** I hope each of you picked up the Iowa High School Athletic Association's "Rules Interpretation Meeting Folder" with the insert entitled, "2007 Football Highlights." This insert includes important dates, information on heat stress and athletic participation; games where heat and lightning are factors; the overtime procedure; the 13-point rule; information regarding casts & splints; the 8-player football rules differences; the 35-point differential rule; general instructions for clock operators and for the football line-to-gain crew. The folder contains articles on use of tobacco; the IHSAA taunting policy, key points to proper warm-up and stretching for officials; the IHSAA Sportsmanship Rating Program; the 2007-2008 IHSAA Points of Emphasis for all sports; precautions to take in hazardous weather; and the IHSAA sportsmanship rules, regulations and penalties. Please make sure you have a plan in case of hazardous weather.

If you failed to pick up an IHSAA Meeting Folder and would like all of this information, please call us at (515) 432-2011 and we would be happy to mail one to you.

2. **SUPERVISED EXAM.** If you are planning on taking the Part II Supervised Exam, it is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28 and Wednesday, August 29, 2007. The sites of the exam are found in the 2007-2008 IHSAA Guide for Registered Officials on page 26. The exam begins at 7:00 p.m.

The supervised exam may now be taken on Tuesday or Wednesday night to be considered for advancement. Remember you can only take the Supervised Exam **once** per year, either Tuesday or Wednesday.

3. **OFFICIALS WANTING TO BE CONSIDERED FOR 2007 PLAYOFFS.** There are 3 criteria officials must meet in order to qualify for the 2007 Playoffs:
 1. Each official must have attended a 2007 IHSAA-sponsored rules meeting.
 2. Each official must have returned their sportsmanship rating form to the IHSAA at the end of the 2006 season **by the stipulated deadline of December 2, 2006.**
 3. Officials desiring consideration for the football playoffs must complete the "Football Playoff Request Form" which is online this year on the IHSAA web site. (www.iahhsaa.org). **(Only 1 per crew please!)** Please submit this form online **PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 5, 2007.** (If an official on a crew did not officiate varsity football in Iowa during the 2006 season, make note of this on your Playoff Request Form.)

4. **TEMPORARY OFFICIALS.** If you were a temporary official, you must take the Part I exam before you officiate any games in the 2007 season. **You will not be licensed to officiate until the Part I exam is completed and passed AND your dues have been paid! (SEE INFORMATION BELOW)** If this is your **FOURTH YEAR** as a Temporary Official, you **MUST** take the Supervised, Part II Exam if you want to maintain your officiating license.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES!!!

5. THE PART I EXAMINATION IS NOW ON-LINE!!!

If you are within your three years of being a Temporary Official or a Circle T Official, you are required to take the Part I exam and pass with a 75% or higher. **The exam will now be offered ONLINE ONLY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A PART I TEST IN THE MAIL!!!!** Please go to www.iahsaa.org and click on **OFFICIALS**. You will then click on **"2007 Part I Examination."** The username: The password: (both in lower case). Be sure to print out the exam before you submit your answers. After you have passed the exam and we have recorded your score in our computer, you will receive a new officials' card which will arrive in the mail in about 5 business days.

REMINDER - You must take this exam AND pay your fees in order to officiate! Taking the exam alone DOES NOT make you registered, and it DOES NOT allow you to officiate.

You may take the exam if you are an Approved official and are taking it for practice or if your Local Officials Association requests that you do so. The only notification you will receive is the pass or fail screen which will pop up after you submit your exam. Be sure to print out the exam before you submit your answers.

6. **TOURNAMENT REQUEST FORMS - ONLINE ONLY!!!.** This year, tournament request forms are to be submitted online, on the IHSAA web site. **THESE MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 BY THE CREW CHIEF ONLY!!!** The IHSAA will only accept request forms submitted online. If you fail to meet the deadline, you will not be considered for tournament assignments. Go to the IHSAA web site at www.iahsaa.org. Under the "WEB INDEX" on the left side of the home page, scroll down and click on "OFFICIALS". There will be a link to click to submit your tournament request form. We request the Crew Chief be the only member of your crew to submit the form. Please check with all members of your crew for conflicts with dates and schools.

7. **OFFICIALS WORKING GAMES BELOW VARSITY LEVEL.** Many times the jerseys used are handed down to the junior-varsity, sophomore, freshman and junior high teams. In Iowa, we make an exception to the numbering requirements for competition below the varsity level. We allow teams below the varsity level to use duplicate numbers and not follow the numbering requirements as specified in the Rule Book. We recommend teams follow the numbering requirements if properly numbered jerseys are available, however if they do not have enough properly numbered jerseys, we are not going to tell a team that its players cannot participate at the junior-varsity, sophomore, freshman or junior high level.

COACHES, in sub-varsity games, we do require that if you are going to use jerseys that do not meet the numbering requirement of the rule, that you notify the officials and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. This will prevent a lot of confusion once the game has begun.

8. **OVERTIME FOOTBALL GAMES PLAYED IN IOWA.** There are 2 things you must remember ~~with regard~~ to overtime as it pertains to games played in Iowa:

1. Once the choice of goals has been made, all overtimes for the game will be played at the same end of the field. EXCEPTION: If officials decide field conditions warrant change in goals for safety of the players.
2. In Iowa, overtime games will be played at the **Varsity Level Only!!!** NO overtimes are to be played in junior-varsity, sophomore, freshman or junior high games.

ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND SPORTSMANSHIP INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

If you do not have a computer, the IHSAA recommends going to your local library or high school and using one of their computers to submit your sportsmanship ratings.

What happens after you assume your duties as an official will determine the final ratings. We do not want you to carry previous game experiences or previous year's experiences on the field as it relates to a school's sportsmanship rating. **Each game merits its own rating.** This will allow you to give a school an accurate rating each time you officiate them during the

season. **PLEASE INCLUDE PLAYOFF GAMES IN YOUR SPORTSMANSHIP RATINGS.** We are asking each official to submit their sportsmanship ratings on a **game-by-game basis**, so the IHSAA can track how schools are doing each week. The final date officials must submit ratings online is November 24, 2007.

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSURE ABOUT SPORTSMANSHIP RATINGS!!

10. **EJECTIONS** - Officials, be accountable for your ejection. Don't let your emotions get ahead of your actions. Stay calm, take a deep breath, see the whole situation, understand the intent, communicate with a fellow official who may have seen the same scenario, then make a decision. If you are having problems with a player(s), inform the coach and allow them the opportunity to handle the situation.

*****OFFICIALS, IF YOU EJECT A PLAYER OR COACH,
YOU MUST CONTACT THE IHSAA!! *****

If you eject a player in grades 7-12, or a coach at the 7-12 competition level, **YOU MUST REPORT THE EJECTION TO THE IHSAA.** You may either submit it online or by making a telephone call. Ejections must be reported by the next day. If you eject a coach, you must **ALSO** submit a written report explaining what led up to that coach's ejection.

Ejections must be 100% decisions, as should all decisions made by officials.

1. See the entire play.
2. Take a deep breath and consider your alternatives (unsportsmanlike conduct or personal foul.) If flagrant, **EJECT!**
3. Don't overreact. Use good judgement.
4. If you are not 100% sure, then give the player the benefit of the doubt.
5. If you have a concern with a player on the field, ask the head coach for help. Give the coach the opportunity to help you.
6. Flagrant unsporting act - **EJECT.**

COACHES - Teach, enforce, advocate and model good sportsmanship.

11. **35-POINT EXCEPTION**

*Once a game has reached a 35-point differential, a substitute who enter the game for the first time and has not played 4 quarters in a preliminary game at that point, is not required to count that game toward the 14-game limitation rule.

COACHES, under no circumstances can a player participate in more than 4 quarters in one day. **Participation** in any part of a quarter counts as a quarter of participation. Please keep in mind, overtime periods are an extension of the 4th quarter. Therefore, overtimes do not count as additional quarters of participation.

*If the score differential falls below 35 points, the player may still continue without the game counting against the 14-game limitation rule.

PLAY SITUATION: Team A and Team B play a fresh/soph game prior to their varsity game on Friday night. The coach of Team A has his fresh/soph players remain on the sideline during the varsity game. In the 3rd quarter, Team A goes ahead 35-0. The coach of Team A wants to substitute a fresh/soph player using the 35-point rule. **RULING:** If a player played in 4 quarters of the fresh/soph game, he/she is not eligible to enter the varsity game under the 35-point rule, due to the fact they have participated in 4 quarters in one day prior to the varsity game.

*All player participation rules are up to the coaching staff to keep track of, **NOT OFFICIALS!!**

12. **FREE KICKS & SCRIMMAGE KICK DOWNS**

A player who participates in only free kick downs and scrimmage kick downs during the game is not charged with game participation as it relates to the 14-game player limitation rule; however, participation in free kicks and scrimmage kicks does count toward the 4-quarter limitation rule in which a player may not play in more than four quarters in one day.

EXAMPLE 1: There is a preliminary game before the varsity game. Player A plays in all 4 quarters of the preliminary game.

RULING: Player A cannot play during the varsity game, even on free kicks or scrimmage kicks.

EXAMPLE 2: There is a preliminary game before the varsity game. Player A plays in 2 quarters of the preliminary game.

RULING: Player A may participate in normal downs during 2 quarters of the varsity game, but these two games combined will count as 1 game towards his 14-game limit. A player may NEVER participate in more than 4 quarters in any one given day. **This rule will not be waived for the 35-point rule.**

EXAMPLE 3: K lines up for a scrimmage kick. K1 comes into the game for the first time to participate. There is a bad snap and (1) Team K gains a first down in the ensuing scramble **OR**, (2) K1 lines up for an extra point try. K fakes the kick and runs or passes for a 2-point conversion. **RULING:** As long as K1 comes out of the game at this point, and only participates in future free kicks or scrimmage kicks, he does not count this game towards his 14-game limit.

CHAIN CREW REMINDER

OFFICIALS: Once the chains are set and the clip is attached to the chain on the appropriate yard line, move the chain crew back off the field 2 yards. This is for the safety of the players, coaches and officials.

END OF QUARTER PROCEDURE

REFEREE: Be sure to hold the ball up at the end of the quarter once you are sure there are no penalties or a coach conference requested. Following the end of the first half, signal the clock operator to put up the 3 minute mandatory warm-up and start that 3 minute countdown.

FIELD GOAL & EXTRA POINT MECHANIC

OFFICIALS: If the ball is snapped from inside the 25-yard line and a field goal or extra point appears likely (referee always faces the holder), BJ & L, or LJ move to standard field goal position. If the team comes out in a swinging gate formation, the releasing official needs to hold his position until they shift. If you leave too early and they run the ball, you don't have solid coverage. It is tough for the referee to cover this X-point (3-yard line) play that happens quickly.

If the ball is snapped from the 25-yard line and out, remain in standard game formation with the BJ only positioned under the goal post (again referee facing the holder). With a kick from this distance, the BJ has plenty of time to adjust to the ball and the appropriate upright and make the call.

ENCLOSURES

1. Enclosed is a copy of our 35-point rule for your Clock Operator. Please post this at your football facilities so the Clock Operator has access to it when the 35-point rule is in effect (7-12).

2. Other enclosures including:

- *General Instructions for Football Clock Operators
- *Sportsmanship Ratings Information
- *Football Rules Changes Information
- *Play Situation

COACHES - STATS INFORMATION

IMPORTANT COACH INFORMATION: We know that the Iowa High School Football Coaches Association has endorsed the use of everyone posting statistics on quikstatsiowa.com this fall. Each school has a password to access the system. If you have a problem, call or e-mail Bud Legg in our office (blegg@iahhsaa.org). Schools that have merged their football programs this year will have to check with Bud for their new access password.

Bud has also revamped the "Best on Record" for Iowa High School and has also posted each week's games on our football website. As you browse through the information, if you find an omission it will be in 99% of the cases where the information has never been received. Additionally, each Saturday morning when all scores are accounted for, the playoff standings are updated. The scores are normally posted between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. Occasionally, we receive an erroneous score report. You have until Monday at 8 a.m. to email a correction so that the standings can be revised if necessary.

This is true for every week except the final week of the season, when an error has to be reported by the next day, Saturday

- 8 a.m.

Finally, if you have a player that has a great performance e-mail it or call our office and leave a voice message following the game, detailing the effort – TDs scored, yards rushed, yards passing, receiving, etc. Bud writes a statewide release, Saturday morning between 6:45 and 7:45 a.m. and part of that will recognize fine individual/team performances. The information goes to all state media and often appears in Sunday columns. We invite each coach to visit our website and the football webpage. There is a link entitled “Football Archives” that will take you to a series of documents about the sport, including all-time best performances in a game, season and career.

HARD CASTS/SPLINTS

RULE 1-5-3C - ILLEGAL. Hard substance in its final form such as leather, rubber, plastic, plaster or fiberglass when worn on the hand, wrist, forearm, or elbow unless covered on all exterior surfaces with **NO LESS THAN 1/2” THICK, HIGH DENSITY, CLOSED-CELL POLYURETHANE**, or an alternate material of the same minimum thickness, and similar physical properties to protect an injury **AS DIRECTED IN WRITING BY A LICENSED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL.**

PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO PRESCRIBE A CAST UNDER RULE 1-5-3C

1. Licensed medical professionals
 - A. Medical Doctor (MD)
 - B. Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
 - C. Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine (DC)
 - D. Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)
 - E. Physician’s Assistant (PA)

One of these 5 qualified medical professionals may prescribe a cast **IN WRITING, FOR AN EXISTING INJURY.** The written prescription must include the following information:

1. First and last name of the athlete the cast has been prescribed for.
2. The reason for the cast. (What is the injury?)
3. The date the cast was prescribed.
4. Physician’s signature.

COACH, the above information must be shown to the official before he/she will be able to participate. I would strongly encourage making several copies in case the official wants a copy for his/her records. Also, the parents should have a copy and carry it to the game with them in case you forget your statement at home. If you don’t have the statement, the player will not be able to participate until a statement is provided.

DETERMINING PROPER PADDING MATERIALS

Padding materials having the necessary physical properties to meet the requirements of rule 1-5-3c can be determined by using the “bottom out test.” This test is performed by pressing the minimum 1/2” thick, high density, closed-cell material between the thumb and finger. When applying maximum pressure on the material, spongy resistance should constantly be felt between the fingers. The material should not “bottom out,” allowing the fingers to come together without spongy resistance. When covering a hard cast, the minimum 1/2 inch thick, high density, closed-cell material should be of such physical properties that it does not allow the hard substance to be felt without spongy resistance. There may be NO hard edges or surfaces.

Knee braces made of a hard, unyielding material, unless hinges are covered on both sides, all edges overlap, and the brace is worn under the pants. Unless covering is provided by the manufacturer, any portion of the brace made of hard material and extending below the pants must be covered. Any other hard substance across the front of the leg must be covered with at least 1/2” of closed-cell, slow recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness and having similar physical properties. Knee braces with hinges must be covered with a knee sleeve or elastic wrap if they extend below the pant during game conditions.

MEDICAL ALERT BRACELETS

COACHES, this is a reminder to you that if you have any player who wears a Medical Alert bracelet or necklace, it is your responsibility to make medical personnel who are covering your contests aware of that fact so proper medical treatment may be given in the event of an injury. Playing rules specify Medical Alert bracelets and necklaces must be taped to the body but may be visible. When verifying that all of your players are legally equipped prior to the contest, officials should be made aware of any tape covering a medical alert bracelet or necklace. **Any other bracelets are illegal (Lance Armstrong). They are considered to be an adornment.**

WRISTBANDS

Wristbands may not be worn higher on the arm than 3 inches above the base of the thumb toward the elbow. Any player who does not comply with this rule will be asked to leave the game until they do comply with the rule. Play wristbands are legal.

TIME-OUTS

New Rule 3.5.2. A charged time-out occurs when the ball is dead and: A player or a **head coach on the sidelines**, request is legally granted. **If the head coach is ejected**, a new head coach on the sidelines may be designated for the purpose of calling time-outs.

VIDEOTAPING OR FILMING

Videotaping or filming is permissible in scouting your opponent. Your opponent shall be notified. Space for taping or filming for scouting is not required of the host school. Handheld cameras are recommended.

13-POINT TIEBREAKER RULE (8.3.1 EXCEPTION)

If a touchdown is scored during the last down of the fourth period, a try for point shall not be attempted unless the point(s) would affect the outcome of the game or playoff qualifying. The Iowa rule will be: If the final score could result in the point differential being 12 points or less, the try will be attempted.

PLAY 1: A-27; B-10. B scores on the last play of the fourth quarter to make the score A-27; B-16.

RULING: The point differential will be 12 points or less. Therefore, the try will be attempted.

PLAY 2: A-20; B-0. B scores on the last play of the fourth quarter to make the score 20-6. **RULING:** The point differential could be 12 points. Therefore, the try will be attempted.

PLAY 3: A-7; B-0. A scores on the last play of the fourth period to make the score A-13; B-0. **RULING:** The point differential cannot be 12 points or less. Therefore, no try will be attempted. Keep in mind the exception to Rule 8-1-3 as it refers to a touchdown that is scored on the last play of the fourth period. If a game ends in a tie and we have an overtime period, we follow the overtime procedure as we have previously. The overtime procedure states, "All game rules will apply except: b) No try will be made if the winner of the game has been determined."

PLAY 4: The game ends in a 0-0 tie. In the first overtime, Team A is on offense to start the overtime period. Team A does not score. Team B now goes on offense and scores a touchdown. **RULING:** The game is over. The final score is Team A-0; Team B-6. No try is attempted in this situation due to the fact a winner has been determined as overtime procedure dictates

8-PLAYER FOOTBALL RULES DIFFERENCES

NEW: The 6 x 6 blocking zone requirements for 8-player football.

RULE 1: Each team has 8 players. The field is 80 yards between goal lines and 40 yards wide with 15-yard side zones. By state association adoption, the 11-player field may be designated as official.

RULE 6: K's free-kick line is its 30-yard line and R's free-kick line is the 40.

RULE 7:

- At least five A players shall be on their line at the snap.
- After the ball is ready and before the snap, each player of A must momentarily be within 12 yards of the spot where the ball is to be snapped.
- Each A player (regardless of jersey number) who at the snap was on an end of the scrimmage line (total of two) and each A player, who at the snap, was legally behind the scrimmage line (possible total of three) is eligible.

RULE 8: On the 8-player field, the ball is snapped after a touchback and is free kicked after a safety from the 15-yard line.

* The 7 yard belt DOES APPLY to 8-player football. Top of the numbers on the field (going toward the center of the field) should be 7 yards from the sidelines.

IHSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL & FINAL ROUND GAMES

SEMIFINALS: All 8 and 11-player semifinal-round games will be played at Cedar Falls, UNI-Dome

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8-Player

Game 1

@ 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9	Class A	Game 2 @ 1:00 p.m.
	Class 4-A	Game 1 @ 10:30 a.m.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10	Class 1-A	Game 2 @ 1:30 p.m.
	Class 2-A	Game 1 @ 4:30 p.m.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12	Class 2-A	Game 2 @ 7:30 p.m.
	Class 3-A	Game 1 @ 10:30 a.m.
		Game 2 @ 1:30 p.m.
		Game 1 @ 10:30 a.m.
	Class 3-A	Game 2 @ 1:30 p.m.
		Game 1 @ 4:30 p.m.
		Game 2 @ 7:30 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND: Friday or Saturday, November 16 or 17, 2007, at Cedar Falls, UNI-Dome.

Friday, November 16, 2007

8-Player @ 9:00 a.m.
 Class A @ 12:30 p.m.
 Class 1-A @ 3:30 p.m.
 Class 4-A @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Class 2-A @ 9:30 a.m.
 Class 3-A @ 12:30 p.m.

CLOSING

The information in this letter is important in getting the 2007 season off to a good start. I encourage you to take time to review this information and make sure your staff or crew is knowledgeable about the 2007 rule changes and interpretations as well as the 2007 Points of Emphasis.

Please check back on the IHSAA web site for future correspondence and information throughout the football season. This will be the only letter we will be mailing out to all the coaches and officials.

I wish each coach and official an outstanding 2007 season. Work hard, hustle, communicate, and above all, be professional and respect each other's role in this great game of high school football and we will have a great 2007 football season!

Sincerely,

Roger Barr
 Director of Officials

RB:jj

enclosures