

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Iowa Code Section 280.13C states, in part,

2c. Emergency medical care provider means the same as defined in section 147A.1.

2d. Extracurricular interscholastic activity means any dance or cheerleading activity or extracurricular interscholastic activity, contest or practice governed by the Iowa High School Athletic Association or Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union...

2e. Licensed health care provider means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or licensed athletic trainer licensed by a board designated under section 147.13.

4b. For school years beginning on or after July 1, 2018, each school district and nonpublic school shall provide to the parent or guardian of each student in grades seven through twelve, a concussion and brain information sheet as provided by the Department of Public Health, Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. The student and student's parent or guardian shall sign and return a copy of the concussion and brain injury information sheet to the student's school prior to the student's participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity.

5a. If a student's coach, contest official, or licensed health care provider, or an emergency medical provider observes signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury in an extracurricular interscholastic activity, the student shall be immediately removed for participation.

5b. A student who has been removed from participation shall not recommence such participation in any dance or cheerleading activity, or activity, contest, or practice governed by the Iowa High School Athletic Association or Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union until the student has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain injuries and the student has received written clearance to return to or commence participation from the licensed health care provider.

- 1. No student shall return to play/competition or practice (RTP) on the same day s/he sustained a concussion or brain injury.**
 - 2. A licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C should evaluate a student suspected of having a concussion or brain injury on the same day the injury occurs.**
 - 3. After receiving medical clearance by a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C, RTP shall follow a stepwise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon the return of any signs or symptoms.**
 - 4. Education of contest officials, school coaches and other appropriate school personnel, contestants, parents, and licensed health care providers.**
- 5. Removing students who exhibit signs, symptoms, & behaviors of a concussion or brain injury from participation, and their return to participation.**

The Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union will provide educational materials related to concussions and brain injuries developed by the CDC and other organizations knowledgeable about concussions.

Coach Removal - If the student's coach observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury, during any kind of participation, i.e. practices, scrimmages, contests, etc., the student shall be immediately removed from participation and shall not return until the school's designated representative receives written clearance to return from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C.

Contest Official Removal - If a contest official observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury, during scrimmages, contests, etc., the student shall be immediately removed from participation and a designated contest official at the contest/event must receive the written clearance to return from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event, including an event that takes place over multiple days.

Before allowing a student who has been exhibiting signs, symptoms, & behaviors of a concussion to return to participation (*practice and/or competition*), licensed health care providers as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C shall follow the return to participation protocol as provided in Chapter 54 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

CHAPTER 54

CONCUSSION OR OTHER BRAIN INJURY RETURN-TO-PLAY PROTOCOL

The Public Health Department hereby adopts new Chapter 54, "Concussion or Other Brain Injury Return-to-Play Protocol," Iowa Administrative Code. These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 280.13C.

641—54.2(280) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply.

"Asymptomatic" means the student is no longer showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other brain injury.

"Contest" means an interscholastic athletic game or competition.

"Extracurricular interscholastic activity" means any dance or cheerleading activity or extracurricular interscholastic activity, contest, or practice governed by the Iowa High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union that is a contact or limited contact activity as identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"Licensed health care provider" means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or athletic trainer licensed by a board designated under Iowa Code section 147.13.

"Medical clearance" means written clearance from a licensed health care provider releasing the student following a concussion or other brain injury to return to or commence participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity.

"Rest" means a recovery state at which physical and cognitive activities are reduced or removed with the intent to eliminate the signs, symptoms, or behaviors of brain injury.

"Return-to-learn plan" means the plan developed by personnel of a school district or accredited nonpublic school based on guidance developed as required under Iowa Code section 280.13C(6)"b" to provide adjustments or accommodations as the student returns to the classroom.

"Return-to-play" means the gradual, step-wise approach to returning a student to participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity following a concussion or other brain injury.

641—54.3(280) Return-to-play protocol. The following return-to-play step-wise process shall begin when the student who has been removed from participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity governed by the Iowa High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union is **no longer showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other brain injury for a minimum of 24 hours and has received written medical clearance from a licensed health care provider** to return to or commence such participation.

54.3(1) Return-to-play process. Each step shall take a minimum of 24 hours.

a. If the student shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other brain injury at any step of the return-to-play protocol, the student must stop the activity and the student's licensed health care provider and parent or guardian shall be contacted.

b. If the student shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other brain injury during this process, an additional 24-hour period of rest shall take place. After the 24-hour period of rest, the student shall drop back to the previous level when the student showed no signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other brain injury and begin the progression again.

54.3(2) Return-to-play steps.

Step 1: Athlete has received written medical clearance from a licensed health care provider to begin the return-to-play process, **AND** the athlete is back to regular activities, including school, without experiencing any concussion signs, symptoms, or behaviors for a minimum of 24 hours.

Step 2: Low impact, light aerobic exercise. Walking or stationary cycling at slow to medium pace. No resistance/weight training.

Step 3: Basic exercise, such as running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.

Step 4: Noncontact, sport-specific training drills (dribbling, ball handling, batting, fielding, running drills) in full equipment. Resistance/weight training may begin.

Step 5: Full contact practice and participation in normal training activities.

Step 6: Contest participation.

This chapter describes the return-to-play protocol for concussion or other brain injury to be adopted by July 1, 2019, by the board of directors of each school district and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school with enrolled students who participate in an extracurricular interscholastic activity in grades seven through twelve.

A FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

HEADS UP: Concussion in High School Sports

Please note this important information based on Iowa Code Section 280.13C, Brain Injury Policies:

- (1) A student participating in extracurricular interscholastic activities, in grades seven through twelve, **must be immediately removed from participation** if the coach, contest official, licensed healthcare provider or emergency medical care provide believe the student has a concussion based on observed signs, symptoms, or behaviors.
- (2) Once removed from participation for a suspected concussion, the **student cannot return to participation until written medical clearance has been provided** by a licensed health care provider.
- (3) A student cannot return to participation until s/he is free from concussion symptoms at home and at school.
- (4) Definitions:
“**Contest official**” means a referee, umpire, judge, or other official in an athletic contest who is registered with the Iowa high school athletic association or the Iowa girls high school athletic union.
“**Licensed health care provider**” means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or athletic trainer licensed by a board.
“**Extracurricular interscholastic activity**” means any extracurricular interscholastic activity means any dance or cheerleading activity or extracurricular interscholastic activity, contest, or practice governed by the Iowa high school athletic association or the Iowa girls high school athletic union that is a contact or limited contact activity as identified by the American academy of pediatrics.
“**Medical clearance**” means written clearance from a licensed health care provider releasing the student following a concussion or other brain injury to return to or commence participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity.

What is a concussion?

Concussions are a type of brain injury that disrupt the way the brain normally works. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or obstacles. Concussions can occur with or without loss of consciousness, but most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

What parents/guardians should do if they think their child has a concussion?

1. Teach your child that it's not smart to play with a concussion.
2. **OBEY THE LAW.**
 - a. Seek medical attention right away.
 - b. Keep your child out of participation until s/he is cleared to return by a licensed healthcare provider.
3. Tell all of your child's coaches, teachers, and school nurse about ANY concussion.

What are the signs and symptoms of concussion?

Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not be noticed until days after the injury. If an athlete reports one or more symptoms of concussion after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, s/he should be removed from play immediately. The athlete should only return to play with permission from a health care provider and after s/he is symptom free at home and at school.

Signs Observed by Parents or Coaches:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction

- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

Symptoms Reported by Student-Athlete:

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”

STUDENTS, If you think you have a concussion:

- **Tell your coaches & parents** – Never ignore a bump or blow to the head, even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if you think one of your teammates might have a concussion.
- **Get a medical check-up** – A physician or other licensed health care provider can tell you if you have a concussion, and when it is OK to return to play.
- **Give yourself time to heal** – If you have a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. It is important to rest and not return to play until you get the OK from your health care professional.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS, You can help your child prevent a concussion:

- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. It should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.
- Ensure that they follow their coaches' rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/Concussion

FOOTBALL

All the rules and regulations governing football can be found in the NFHS Football Rule Book which all member schools have received from the Association Office with regard to the rules of playing the game, except any experiment approved by the Board of Control. **All football playing schools (host school) WILL RECEIVE a 2021 NFHS Football Rules Book.**

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FOOTBALL GAMES AND PRACTICE

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Practice: Week/Date</u>	<u>First Contest: Week/Date</u>
2021-22	Week 6/August 9 th	Week 8/August 26 th
2022-23	Week 6/August 8 th	Week 8/August 25 th
2023-24	Week 6/August 7 th	Week 8/August 24 th
2024-25	Week 6/August 12 th	Week 8/August 29 th
2025-26	Week 6/August 11 th	Week 8/ August 28 th

2021 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

Action in the Free-Blocking Zone [2-17-2c (NEW), 2-17-4] Blocking below the waist now requires the block to begin immediately following the snap.

2021 EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-1b(3); 2-10-1; 2-10-2; 3-5-1; 9-4-4 PENALTY, NINE-, EIGHT- AND SIX-PLAYER RULES DIFFERENCES

2021 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL EXPERIMENT (7-5-2 EXCEPTION)

For the 2021 football season, the IHSAA will continue experimenting with rule 7-5-2, providing the opportunity for the passer to throw the ball away as long as he is outside the free blocking zone at the time the ball is thrown and the ball must reach the line of scrimmage while in the air.

Classification of Schools

Class 5-A: Largest 36 schools by enrollment.

Class 4-A: Next 36 largest schools by enrollment.

Class 3-A: Next 36 largest schools by enrollment.

Class 2-A: Next 48 largest schools by enrollment.

Class 1-A: Next 48 largest schools by enrollment.

Class A: The remaining 11-player football schools. (56)

Please Note: There are no enrollment minimum requirements for 11-player football. Schools who may qualify to play 8-player still have the option to play 11-player football.

Eight-Player: 72 schools

Any school interested in playing up a classification needs to notify the Iowa High School Athletic Association by December 1st of the year prior to the redistricting format.

HUDL Video Exchange

Based on a recommendation from the football advisory committee, the IHSAA has created one pool for HUDL video exchange. All IHSAA football playing schools (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, A, 8 Player) are now part of a single pool. Any school in any class is now able to view video from any of the IHSAA football playing schools throughout the football season. Previous rules regarding video exchange will continue. Coaches are expected to enter their Friday game by 12 PM the following Saturday, or 12 PM the following Sunday if playing on Saturday. Rationale for this change focused on inconsistencies with non-district contests that involved different classifications and the ability for schools to view and educate themselves regarding schemes throughout the state.

8-player enrollments:

The enrollment cap to participate in 8-player football is the BEDS Document Certified Enrollment in grades 9-11 of 120 or less. The following exception was recommended by the Football Play-Off Committee and approved by the IHSAA Board of Control.

EXCEPTION: An 8-player football school whose enrollment was 120 or less during the previous classification system, and whose enrollment increases above 120 for the current classification system, will be permitted 8-player football status for next redistricting cycle of two years.

11-player enrollments:

If the 9-11 enrollment is larger than 120, schools must play 11-player football.

Football Play-Off Policy

The following exception was approved by the IHSAA Board of Control in June, 2010.

A football team would be allowed to compete in post season play in the class they have been assigned if its BEDs enrollment increases during the two year re-classification cycle because of whole grade sharing or reorganization.

Regulations Pertaining To Scrimmages

In football, a school may have one scrimmage, and this scrimmage may not take place until the school has had the opportunity for 10 days of practice or thereafter. Up to 4 (four) teams are allowed at one facility for a scrimmage, however, a school may only scrimmage one team. *Please keep in mind that a bona fide scrimmage is where, no admission charged, no scores kept, no public address is used after each play and no school time may be used for travel or participation in such a scrimmage. See "Penalty For Violation".*

Football Regular Season

Teams are permitted to use practice facilities other than their own with local school administration approval. **The UNI-Dome is not to be used for any regular season practices except those schools that use it as a home facility.**

1. Football teams are allowed four (4) hours of coach-athlete contact per day, in which no more than three (3) hours may consist of physical activity per day. Two-a-day practices are now prohibited. Warm-up, stretching, speed and agility rules, strength training, and cool down are all considered part of a practice. Football teams have the option of separating the three hours of physical activity with a brief, supervised period of education, re-energizing, or rehydrating. **Optional weight training activities that are available to all students are not considered part of the practice.**
2. The first two days of practice will consist of **no person to person contact work of any kind**. However, during the first two days of practice, it is permitted to use blocking dummies, handshields, blocking sleds, and tackling rings to be used for contact. Helmets and mouth pieces may be worn during the first two days of practice. The IHSAA recommends that during these two days of preconditioning, helmets only be worn when players are doing football drills. It is recommended that during calisthenics, stretching, agilities, or any other time the players are not doing drill work that the helmets be removed. This policy is made for the safety of the players.
3. During days three, four and five of practice, helmets, mouth pieces, and shoulder pads are allowed. Contact above the waist is permitted, but players should not be brought to the ground. Contact with sleds, dummies, shields, and pads are allowed during days three, four, and five.
4. Beginning on day six, full person-to-person contact is allowed.
5. Beginning with practice on Monday, August 23rd each **individual player** is limited to 30 minutes of contact per day using the USA Football definitions of levels of contact. In addition, each player is limited to 90 minutes of contact per week using the USA Football definitions of levels of contact.
CONTROL: Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill.

CONTROL to GROUND: Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.

6. No practice is allowed on Sunday, August 15th and Sunday, August 22nd for Week 1 playing schools.
7. **Out of State Competition:**
The IHSAA recommends allowing schools to play varsity contests with schools bordering Iowa along with playing schools in the state of Kansas.

Week 1 Contests

Monday, August 9th – First Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- No Contact
- Helmets and mouth guards are permitted
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Tuesday, August 10th – Second Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- No Contact
- Helmets and mouth guards are permitted
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Wednesday, August 11th – Third Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Contact above the waist is permitted (form tackling)
- Helmets, mouth guards and shoulder pads are permitted
- Contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may begin
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Thursday, August 12th – Fourth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Contact above the waist is permitted (form tackling)
- Helmets, mouth guards and shoulder pads are permitted
- Contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may begin
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Friday, August 13th – Fifth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Contact above the waist is permitted (form tackling)
- Helmets, mouth guards and shoulder pads are permitted
- Contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may begin
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Saturday, August 14th-Sixth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact may begin
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Sunday, August 15th-

- No practice allowed

Monday, August 16th – Seventh Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Tuesday, August 17th – Eighth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Wednesday, August 18th – Ninth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Thursday, August 19th – Tenth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Friday, August 20th – Eleventh Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Scrimmage against another school is permissible on this date.
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Saturday, August 21st – Twelfth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Sunday, August 22nd –

- No practice allowed

Monday, August 23rd -Thirteenth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Tuesday, August 24th – Fourteenth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- Full person-to-person contact is allowed
- One practice, four hours of total coach/athlete contact allowed; maximum of three hours of physical activity is allowed

Wednesday, August 25th - Fifteenth Legal Day of Practice for any schools playing Week 1

- First day schools are allowed to lift weights/walk-through in the morning and then have one practice, maximum of three hours after school.
- Full person-to-person contact is allowed

Thursday, August 26th -

- **First Legal Playing Date for any schools playing Week 1-**

(It was intended that the local school could have more than 14 days for acclimatization and the local administrator, because of heat, Labor Day, or other complicating matters, would have the choice whether to practice or not to practice.) A weekday is considered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Concussion Course Requirement-All Football Coaches, Grades 7-12

All coaches, grades 7-12 will be required to view the NFHS course, "Concussion in Sports-", prior to the first legal practice date.

Cancellation vs. Forfeiture of Football Season

The season starts with the first game. If a team does not play a game, it does not have a season and this is considered a cancellation, not a forfeiture, Per Board of Control Policy, January, 2014, the continuation of the season for a team that forfeits a regular season game shall be determined by the IHSAA administrative staff and the school's administration.

The Board of Control of the IHSAA adopted the following policy March 1, 2003: If a team forfeits a game and it is the forfeiting team's opponent's home game, the forfeiting team will play at the opponent's site the following year if it is during a 2-year scheduling time period. **NOTE:** In simple terms, the canceling team gives their opponent a game back if it was the opponent's home game the year they forfeited.

Per Board of Control Policy, January, 2017, any school that forfeits a district football contest will be ineligible for the post season.

Individual Football Game Limitations-Season

A player may not participate in more than 14 regular football games in any one season. Those schools that are granted permission to play a 10th varsity game to help another school have a full schedule are still limited to 14 regular football games for all their players. The participation in the football playoffs is permitted in addition to the 14 games.

PENALTY: Violation of the individual season game limitation will result in forfeiture of the contest in which the violation occurred.

Individual Football Game Limitations-Daily

A player may dress for no more than two games per day as the maximum, and they may not play in any part of more than five quarters in the two games. A reminder that a player may only participate in 8 quarters per week. A week is defined as Sunday through Saturday. This would count as one game toward the player's game limitation. A player's participation in one or more quarters of a game constitutes a game with the following two exceptions. One play equals one quarter.

Exception One: Once a game has reached a 35-point differential, a substitute who enters the game for the first time at that point is not required to count that game toward the 14-game limitation rule, if the game differential falls below 35 points, it still does not count toward the 14-game limitation rule; however, participation in this game does count toward the five-quarter limitation rule in which a player may not play in any part of more than five quarters in one day or a total of 8 quarters per week.

Exception Two: 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 five-quarter limitation rule in which a player may not play in any part of more than five quarters in one day or a total of 8 quarters per week.

PENALTY: Violation of the individual daily game limitation and/or quarter limitation will result in forfeiture of the contest in which the violation occurred.

Hypothetical situation: Last Friday night Team A played Team C in a varsity only game on Friday night. Todd Tharp held the ball for the place kicker in all 4 quarters of that game with Team C. Todd Tharp is not charged with a game for playing only on free kick downs and scrimmage downs, according to exception two.

Now, this week in the Friday night sophomore curtain-raiser game against Team B, Todd Tharp will be playing quarterback all 4 quarters against Team B. The question: Can Todd Tharp be the place-kick holder in the varsity game to be played afterwards?

The answer: Yes, but Todd Tharp can play in one quarter and one quarter only of the varsity contest. Playing in more than one quarter regardless of the score of the contest or playing on specialty teams only will result in Todd Tharp being an

ineligible athlete, due to playing in more than 5 quarters in a day and the contest in which he played as an ineligible athlete being forfeited.

If Todd Tharp plays in two quarters of the sophomore game, he is allowed to play in three quarters of the varsity game. Yes, and it counts as one game out of the 14 he is allowed. Just a reminder, if you have a curtain raiser game and a player plays in all 4 quarters of that game, he can play in one quarter and one quarter only of the varsity contest.

Todd Tharp plays in all 4 quarters of the sophomore game prior to the varsity game for Team A. After half-time of the varsity game, Team A is ahead by 35 points and the continuous clock is in affect. Can Todd Tharp play in the varsity contest?

The answer: Yes, Todd Tharp can play in either the third quarter or the fourth quarter, but cannot play in both quarters as that would put him over the 5 quarter daily limitation.

Team Football Game Limitations- Season

A Class 8 Player, A, 1A, or 2A school is permitted to play a maximum of eight regular season games and a Class 3A, 4A, or 5A school is permitted to play a maximum of nine regular season games unless approval is given by the Board of Control for an additional game to help a school with a scheduling conflict. All varsity regular season football games must be played by the eighth Friday of the football season for Classes 8 Player, A 1A and 2A and the ninth Friday of the football season for Classes 3A, 4A, and 5A (calendar weeks #15 & 16, respectively).

Suspended Games

Suspended game provisions apply to games in progress and postponed. There is no point in a contest in which the contest is considered "official" and a winner can be determined. If it is mutually agreed upon by both school's athletic administrators, a game can be determined as over prior the end of the 4th quarter and a winner declared. The season ends for a playoff qualifying team when they are defeated in the postseason. **If a regular season game that has been suspended cannot be completed by the eight or ninth Friday of the football season, that game will be considered final at the point of suspension.**

No football game may be scheduled after the start of the football season without the approval of the Board of Control. Any school desiring to schedule an additional game must write to the IHSAA Office and ask for permission.

No junior varsity, sophomore, or freshman games may be played after the last regular season varsity playing date in their respective class without the approval of the Iowa High School Athletic Association.

NOTE: Class 8 Player, A, 1A, and 2A schools not qualifying for the post season are permitted to play a ninth regular season during the week of October 18th-23rd. These schools will be responsible for selecting an opponent, choosing the site of the contest and contracting officials for the contest. The two schools will be responsible for all financial obligations involved in this contest.

National Anthem Protocol

The Iowa Football Coaches Association recommends that during the regular season schools shall be on the field during the playing of the National Anthem.

National Anthem should take place 5 minutes prior to kickoff.

Sample Agenda:

7:00 PM Kickoff
6:57 PM Mock Coin Toss
6:55 PM National Anthem

Additional Time on Field would depend on home team's marching band performance during pregame.

Both teams are required to have 30 minutes of uninterrupted pre game warm up.

Drones

IHSAA TOURNAMENT EVENTS OR VENUES:

The use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person or entity at any IHSAA post-season tournament events or venues. An exception to this policy may be granted in writing by the IHSAA executive director to law enforcement, public safety agencies, IHSAA media partners, or other entities or individuals.

This prohibition applies to the area above and upon all spectator areas, fields of play, courts, arenas, stadiums, mats, gym floor or pool, practice facilities, parking areas, and includes a ban on the entire facility or property being used as part of the IHSAA event.

For purposes of this policy, a UAS is any unmanned airborne device or aircraft. The IHSAA reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone possessing, operating, or attempting to operate a UAS or to request the immediate removal of any person using or attempting to use a UAS in violation of this policy.

For regular season contests, the use of drones at practices and competitions is a local school district decision.

8 Player Field Dimension Requirements

All 8 player games shall be played on the NFHS requirements of the dimensions of an 8 player field, which is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide. Those schools that share a facility with an 11 player school will need to make provisions to play on the properly marked field.

35 Point Rule- 8 Player Football & 11 Player Football

The 35-point differential rule is in effect for all games played in Iowa, grades 7-12. If there is a 35-point differential **anytime during the contest**, the game will be continued with a running clock. Beginning with the ensuing kick-off when the 35-point differential becomes effective, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.

The clock will run continuously except for the following situations when it will be stopped:

- (1) Anytime a time-out is charged to a team;
- (2) After a score;
- (3) Intermission between first and second quarter;
- (4) Intermission between third and fourth quarter;
- (5) Administration of a penalty;
- (6) Extended injury time-out;
- (7) Anytime officials determine it is necessary for safety reasons.

Anytime the score differential gets below 35 points, regular timing procedures will be used.

Sub-Varsity Overtime Procedures

In junior varsity, sophomore, and freshman games, a maximum of one overtime period will be allowed. After each team has had the opportunity to play offense and defense, the game will end, regardless of the score.

Football Field Markings/Collegiate Field Use

A 4-inch-wide broken restraining line shall be placed around the outside of the field, at least 2 yards from the sidelines and end lines, as an extension of the line limiting the team box area. The line shall be 12 inches in length and occur every 24 inches.

If the field of play has a logo in the center or at any other part of the field of play, that logo should not obstruct the visibility of the required marks every five yards. A solid or shadow-bordered 4-inch-wide line is permissible. A shadow line is a line that designates the required 4-inch width by use of a border or outline lines, at least ¼-inch wide which shall lie within the 4-inch width. Shadow lines that are the natural color of the field of play are permissible. The area within these lines need not be one color, but the continuous 4-inch-wide outline must be clearly visible to the game officials.

It is permissible to use college fields with hash marks marked at the distance specified by their respective codes along with goal post width specified by their respective codes.

Advertising and/or commercial markings may be placed on the field of play by home management as long as they do not obstruct the yard lines, hash marks or nine-yard marks (seven-yard marks for nine-, eight-, and six player).

Protocols Regarding Marching Bands Playing During The Game

The pep/marching band may play during pre-game, half-time, quarter breaks, and time-outs. Once the ball has been marked ready for play by the referee (white hat) and the 25 second clock has begun, there is to be no music played by the pep/marching band, nor any artificial noise over the public address system.

Immediately after a down has finished and before the ready for play has been signaled for the next play, the band may play during that very quick interval. Pep/marching bands that violate this protocol may subject their team to penalties which could include 5 yard delay of game penalties, all the way to 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalties.

Referee Microphone and 25/40 Second Play Clocks

Microphones on referees and 25-second clocks are both permitted. IHSAA permission is not needed, nor is mutual consent required. Use of a referee microphone and a 25-second clock is a host school decision. The use of electric clocks, including the 25-second clock, is considered official. The line/back judges will coordinate with the timers. The Referee shall announce the offender's number when using a microphone. All football field markings should be in compliance with NFHS rules. It is permissible to play on a field marked for collegiate games.

Visible 25/40-second play clocks are not mandatory for high school football.

Use of 25/40-second clocks is a home team management decision. Following are general guidelines for the usage of these clocks.

- (1) Placement: A visible 25/40-second play clock should be placed in EACH end zone, a safe distance off the end line and at a height so that players and officials may view them.
- (2) Operator: The visible play clock operator shall meet with the game official (BJ) prior to the game. The operator shall start the play clock on the Referee's signal and reset the clock to 25/40 on the snap of the ball or when told to by the Referee's signal (upward hand push). The operator shall keep the play clock at zero (0) if it runs out prior to the snap. If the game clock is running with less than 25 seconds in a quarter, the 25/40-second play clocks shall be turned off or not started. The 2/405-second play clocks shall operate by rule for PAT, kick-off and over-time plays.
- (3) Officials: If a school has the 25/40-second play clock, use them. The Referee may correct a timing error on the 25/40-second play clock and a new 25/40-second timing started. If any timing error occurs, the game clock and 25/40-second play clocks shall be reset and re-started by rule. If the officials cannot determine the game clock elapsed time, a new 25/40-second play clock shall be started and the game clock shall start on the snap. If one of the play clocks becomes inoperative, BOTH will be turned off with both coaches notified. The Back Judge will then time the 25/40 seconds. The Back Judge remains the primary official for timing/operation/enforcement of the play clock.

Event*	Play Clock Starts at	Game Clock Starts at	Covering Officials' Signal	Referee's Signal
Dead Ball Inbounds	40	Running	Hand above Head	None
Dead Ball Out of Bound	40	Snap	Waves hands above head	None
Incomplete Pass	40	Snap	Waves hands in front of body	None
Team A awarded 1 st Down	40	Signal of 1 st Down	Waves hands above head	Wind the clock
Double change of Possession-Team A snaps	40	Ready for Play	Hand above head	Wind the clock

Event*	Play Clock Starts at	Game Clock Starts at	Covering Officials' Signal	Referee's Signal
Penalty Administration	25	Ready for Play	Waves hands above head	Wind the clock
Charged Team Timeout	25	Snap	Waves hands above head	Ready for Play
Injury/Helmet Off Defensive Player	40	Ready for Play	Waves hands above head	Wind the clock
Measurement	25	Ready for Play	Waves hands above head	Wind the clock
Change of Possession- Team B Snaps the ball	25	Snap	Waves hands above head	Ready for Play
Touchdown	25	N/A	Touchdown	Ready for Play
Try, Field Goal, Safety	25	Varies**	Varies**	Ready for Play
Start of Each Period	25	Snap	N/A	Wind the clock
Legal Kick	25	Snap	Waves hands above head	Ready for Play
Start of Overtime	25	N/A	N/A	Ready for Play
Other Administrative Stoppages ***	25	Ready	Waves hands above head	Wind the clock

*If the event does not occur in conjunction with any other event that stops the clock

**The game clock will start on the free kick by rule.

***Includes inadvertent whistle and period extension.

Issuing Football Equipment

Prior to the first day of practice assigned by the IHSAA, schools that issue football equipment to student-athletes are to rent that equipment out on per use basis with the equipment being checked out and returned on a daily basis. For example, Team A is attending a 7 on 7 passing league every Sunday for 6 weeks. The decision is made that helmets are going to be worn during this weekly league. Each Sunday, the head coach is to check out the helmets to the student -athletes prior to the game and is check in the equipment after the game that night. Additionally, since it is non-school competition because football practice has not officially begun, the equipment is to be rented out to the student athletes on a per use basis.

Videotaping of Opponents

Videotaping or filming is permissible in scouting your opponent during both scrimmages and regular/post season contests. It is a common courtesy that the host school shall be notified. Space for taping or filming for scouting is not required of the host school. Hand-held cameras are recommended. Patrons are allowed to videotape contests with paid admission to a contest. Tripods are not recommended to be used from spectator seating.

Game Official Jurisdiction

The game officials maintain administrative responsibilities for the contest through the completion of any required reports or correspondence in response to any action occurring while the officials have jurisdiction. The Iowa High School Athletic Association may intercede in the event of unusual incidents after the officials have signaled the end of the game or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

Spring Football Meeting

A member school's football coach is permitted to have a meeting with his football squad in the Spring to discuss next year's program, hand out play books, distribute exercise sheets which he wants the players to follow to be in condition, distribute information concerning the protection of their eligibility during the summer months, and any other pertinent information that a player should have relative to the next year's season.

Coach-Athlete Contact Outside the Football Season

There may not be any mandatory football practice after the championship series and until the starting date the following August. Football coaches are allowed contact with their players beginning on June 1st.

IHSAA Post Season Football

There will be no required football for the 2021 post season. Each school will be permitted to use their own football during the post season. Schools will be required to provide appropriate-aged ball boys during the post season.

Game Protests Not Upheld

The Board of Control will not uphold any protest by a member school arising from any interscholastic contest involving the question of judgment by any of the contest officials. This includes appeals regarding the ejection of any student- athletes, targeting, and helmet-to-helmet contact.

Team Box Area Restriction Rule

Any player/athlete on the bench as a substitute or in uniform who is involved in the breaking up, participating in, or initiating a fighting incident will be automatically ejected from that contest and the PENALTY of the student athlete ejection rules will be invoked.

Coach Ejection Policy

Any coach at any level grades 7-12 who is ejected from an IHSAA sanctioned sport will be required to take the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching elective course "Teaching and Modeling Behavior." The course must be viewed prior to being able to return and coach an interscholastic contest and the certificate of course completion must be sent to the IHSAA office. In addition, the cost of the course will be the responsibility of the individual coach. The approximate cost of the course is \$20. This mandate is in addition to missing the next regularly scheduled game/meet which is defined as the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date. Coaches failing to complete the course prior to coaching in an interscholastic contest are considered ineligible coaches and forfeiture may occur.

Student-Athlete Ejection Policy

Any student-athlete at any level grades 7-12 who is ejected from an IHSAA sanctioned sport will be required to take the NFHS Fundamentals elective course "Sportsmanship- It's Up to You." The course must be viewed prior to being able to return and compete in an interscholastic contest and the certificate of course completion must be sent to the IHSAA office. There is no cost associated with taking this course. This mandate is in addition to missing the next regularly scheduled game/meet which is

defined as the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date. Students failing to complete the course prior to participating in an interscholastic contest are considered ineligible athletes and forfeiture may occur.

Video Guidelines For Regular Season Exchange

The Iowa Football Coaches Association feels that the exchange of game tapes is a vital part of our football program. Each year both the Iowa Football Coaches Association and the Iowa High School Athletic Association receive concerns regarding the quality and integrity of game tapes. The Iowa Football Coaches Association based, on a recommendation from the Football Playoff Advisory Committee has created the following guidelines to help with the consistency of how games are recorded and exchanged. Any issues or concerns regarding regular season film exchange need to be addressed with the Iowa Football Coaches Association. The Iowa Football Coaches Association understands and appreciates that often times volunteers and students are those that have the responsibility to videotape. Hopefully, these general guidelines will allow practice and improve consistency in the game exchange process.

General Points:

1. Close up shots are not often necessary. Zoom in on the players as the play ends to see how both teams are moving, blocking, and tackling.
2. Do not zoom out too much. The idea is to see the players, not empty grass. There is no need to see things off the football field.
3. Focus on the action. When the play starts, try to have all of the players on the screen. You should have the entire offensive backfield on one side and the entire defensive backfield on the other side.
4. Hold the camera as steady as possible and mute the sound if at all possible. Be sure that you are on "Record" or "Pause". Check this before each play.
5. Remember, more is better. It is better to stop later than too soon. The coaches can edit time, but cannot regain a play.

Special Teams: Kickoff, Punt, Field Goal & Point after Touchdown

1. Take a wide angle shot of the teams as they line up. Keep all the players in the picture before the kick.
2. After the kick, focus on the return team. Do not track the ball in the air. Simply pan back to the returner and capture the blockers and coverage as they come to him.
3. Keep the returner on one side of the screen and slowly zoom in as the players converge on the returner.

Scrimmage Plays:

1. Start to record as the offensive team breaks the huddle. Show the defensive front seven and the offensive line. Then zoom back to show the formation and any motion.
2. Running Plays- Follow the runner to include the blockers and defenders in the area as you close in on the action.
3. Passing Plays- Zoom out to include all players on the screen. The quarterback should be on one side of the screen with defenders and pass patterns on the other side of the screen. Once the ball is thrown, treat like a kick. Do not film the ball in the air, but instead follow the action on the field.
4. After the play ends, zoom in so the runner/receiver, blockers and tacklers can be seen as they unpile.
5. Film referee's preliminary signal after each penalty.
6. Film the scoreboard after each score and at the start of each quarter.

Checklist:

1. Extra batteries that are charged
2. Extension cord and battery adapter (in case the battery fails)
3. Tripod- Reminder that by IHSAA policy, tripods are not allowed in the bleachers during contests to video tape contests.

Coach-Athlete Contact ("Camps & Clinics Rule")

(36.15(6) *Summer camps and clinics and coaching contacts out of season.*

(a) School personnel, whether employed or volunteers of a member or associate-member school shall not coach that school's student athletes during the school year in the sport for which the school personnel are currently under contract or are volunteers, outside the period from the official first day of practice through the finals of tournament play, nor shall volunteer or compensated coaching personnel require students to participate in any activities outside the season of that coach's sport as a condition of participation in the coach's sport during the season.

(b) A summer team or individual camp or clinic held at a member or associate-member school facility shall not conflict with sports in season. Summertime coaching activities shall not conflict with sports in season.

(d) Penalty. A school whose volunteer or compensated coaching personnel violate this rule is ineligible to participate in a governing organization-sponsored event in that sport for one year with the violator(s) coaching.

Football Policy: The Board of Control has adopted the following policy as it relates to football camps/football clinics:

1. Camps/clinics conducted by school personnel, whether employed or volunteers, must be non contact with no player wearing full protective equipment. (Helmets only are permitted and are to be rented to the student-athletes on a per use
2. Practice equipment such as dummies, sleds, ropes, etc., will be allowed for use during football camps/clinics.

Mandatory Reporting Of Stats

Based on a recommendation from the Executive Board of the Iowa Football Coaches Association, head varsity football coaches are mandated to enter required statistical data at the quik stats website, www.quikstatsiowa.com. Statistical data needs to be entered by 3:00 PM on the Tuesday following the third, sixth, and eighth/ninth games of the season. For teams making the 1st round of the playoffs and continuing to the conclusion of their season, statistical data must be entered by noon the next day after each contest.

The following data is required to be reported:

1. Rushing- Attempts-Yards-TDs
2. Receptions- Number-Yards-TDs
3. Passing- Attempts-Completions-Int-Yards-TDs
4. Punting-Attempts-Yards
5. Field Goals-Made-Attempts-Long
6. Kicking-PAT-Attempts-Made
7. KO Returns-Number-Yards-TDs
8. Punt Returns-Number-Yards-TDs
9. PAT-Rush/Receiving
10. Scoring-Rush Pts.-Rec. Pts- FG Pts.-PAT-Kick-PAT-2 pt-Return Pts.
11. Tackles
12. Interceptions & Return Yards
13. Fumble Recoveries & Return Yards
14. Touchbacks (Kickoffs)

The penalty for failure to report on time is: **First offense**, a letter/e-mail to the head coach and athletic director from the IHSAA sport administrator giving 3 days to comply with the mandate; **Second offense**, a letter to the athletic director with a copy to the principal from the IHSAA executive director, giving 3 days to comply with the mandate. **Third offense**, IHSAA member school's expense allowances will be withheld by the IHSAA in the sport in which the third offense occurred.

Football Post Season

The UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls will be used only for semifinal and championship round contests unless the host school uses the UNI-Dome as their primary home facility.

Lightning Safety

The safety of the players and spectators is always more important than the game! Communication between game management, officials & coaches is essential for the safety of everyone.

Lightning only takes an instant to strike. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder.

All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous. Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from rainfall. Don't wait until the last minute to seek shelter.

If thunder is heard, or cloud-to-ground lightning is seen, immediately suspend the event and instruct everyone to take shelter in a safe structure.

Have a lightning safety plan in place. Know where teams and spectators will go for safety and know how much time it will take them to get to safety. A "safe structure" is a completely enclosed building that is normally occupied or frequently used by people. The building should have plumbing and electrical wiring to help ground it from lightning. If there is no such structure available, an enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and sides is a reasonable second choice.

When a contest is suspended due to lightning, wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last thunder before leaving safe shelter and resuming activity.

Lightning detectors are a great tool to draw one's attention to the fact that lightning is in the vicinity. Remember, even with lightning detectors, the weather should be monitored closely for lightning or thunder.

Precautions To Take In Hazardous Weather

Rule 3, Section 1, Article 5 of the National Federation Football Rule book states, "WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE CONSTRUED TO BE HAZARDOUS TO LIFE OR LIMB OF THE PARTICIPANTS, THE CREW OF OFFICIALS IS AUTHORIZED TO DELAY OR SUSPEND THE GAME." Rule 1, Section 1, Article 7 states, "The game officials shall assume authority for the contest, including penalizing unsportsmanlike acts, 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time, or as soon thereafter as they are able to be present." Both of these rules dictate the authority of the officials, but school administrators assume the responsibility for decisions made prior to the time the officials' authority begins.

Hazardous Weather Guidelines **(Approved, September, 2007)**

The primary concern when signs of hazardous weather are present is the safety of participants and spectators. Have a safety plan for any type of hazardous weather that may occur. Practice and follow the plan. Know where people will

go for safety and know how much time it will take for them to get there. Have specific guidelines for suspending the event so everyone has time to reach a place of safety before the threat becomes significant.

Suspension Or Postponement Of Contests

- I. Prior to the contest officials' assuming authority.
 - A. The home school's management shall determine whether a contest should be suspended or postponed due to severe weather.
 - 1. In making the decision whether or not to suspend or postpone a contest, the host management should first take into consideration the safety of the participants and spectators.
 - 2. Playing surface conditions should be considered and what continued use may do to the surface.
 - 3. If the decision is made by the host management to postpone the contest, administrators from both schools should mutually agree if, and when, to reschedule.
- II. Once the contest officials' authority begins.
 - A. Refer to NFHS playing rules, or IHSAA post-season rules, for the exact rules in each sport regarding contest officials authority to suspend the contest.
- III. Postponing the contest.
 - A. Wait a sufficient amount of time to see if the severe weather will subside.
 - B. Home management and/or contest officials shall decide whether to postpone or resume the contest.
 - C. Playing surface conditions should be considered when making this decision.
 - D. There is no time in which a football game becomes official and is declared a finalized game per NFHS rules. See previous guidance regarding suspended game.
- IV. If the contest resumes.
 - A. Adequate time should be given for contestants to warm up prior to continuing play.
- V. If the contest cannot be resumed after a severe weather delay.
 - A. Administrators from both schools need to come to an agreement. The contest may be considered complete with the existing score becoming the final score, or the contest may be postponed and continued from the point of interruption, at a time mutually agreed to by both schools.
 - B. If a regular season game that has been suspended cannot be completed by the ninth Friday of the football season, that game will be considered final at the point of suspension. All necessary points will be awarded at that time.