



# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Football Memo #4

August 30, 2022

Good morning football coaches and athletic directors –

Everyone has a game under their belt in the 2022 season. For the most part, it was a quiet week one. Schools are reminded to get scores entered into Bound Friday night after their game. We are still missing a score from last Friday. Again, both teams are responsible to make sure the score is entered into the site. This memo has a few administrative items in addition to a few rule reminders regarding scrimmage kicks and PATs as we head into week two.

### 1. District Play – Point Margin/Forfeits

While four classes are still a few weeks away from district play, Class A and 8-player schools begin district play this Friday. Nothing has changed from a year ago regarding playoff qualification in all seven classes. With that being said, the +-17 point tiebreaking average is still in place for 8-Player, Class A, 1A and 2A when head-to-head competition alone cannot determine the district finish in a three-way or more tie scenario. Also, as with last year, the +-17-point average will be used to determine the six district runner-ups that will host in the first round of the 8-player playoffs. Finally, all schools need to keep in the IHSAA Board of Control policy that any school that forfeits a district football contest due to low numbers will be ineligible for the postseason.

### 2. Week 0 Games Now Scrimmages

I want to follow up regarding something I covered in the first memo of the season. With Des Moines, Hoover playing last Friday night, the following games will now revert to scrimmages and will not be used for the RPI calculation:

- Ballard at Winterset
- Des Moines, North at Dallas Center-Grimes
- Panorama at Perry
- Sioux City, East at Glenwood
- Sioux City, West at Council Bluffs, Thomas Jefferson
- Underwood at Lewis Central

### 3. Playoff Game Ball – Wilson GST

Again, the IHSAA has named the Wilson GST the official football for the 2022 postseason. Schools were notified last spring about the change and coaches were reminded about the change during the online rules meeting. School administrators were also notified on July 5 that the IHSAA will no longer be shipping game balls to any host site in any sport for the 2022-23 school year. If your school has ordered Wilson GST footballs and they still haven't arrived, please respond to this email, so our office has a feel for who has and hasn't received the new playoff football.

### 4. Play Clock – Defensive Penalty

We've heard from a handful of officials that there was some confusion between officials, play clock operators and coaches regarding the rule change pertaining to the exception of setting the play clock to 40 seconds following a defensive penalty. We know there are a few kinks for all parties to work on during the first week. We also know that for approximately 150 schools that have their home opener this week that if you have a visible play clock your operator may not know of this change. We're hoping schools will share this rule change with the play clock operator as we are also hoping our officials cover the change as well with the individual when they meet with the clock operators prior to the contest.

## **5. Scrimmage Kick Behind the Neutral Zone**

We had a play the other night where a punt went straight up in the air and never crossed the neutral zone. An offensive lineman caught the kick, paused for a few seconds (just as the other players on the field) and started to toss the ball to the closest official. The officials correctly let the play continue. This play is a reminder to all coaches and officials that any K player may catch or recover a scrimmage kick while it is behind the neutral zone and advance, unless it is during a try (6-2-3).

## **6. Blocked PATs**

Officials and coaches are reminded that a try ends in four situations (B secures possession; it is apparent a drop kick or place kick will not score; the try is successful; the ball becomes dead for any other reason (8-3-2)). When it comes to a blocked PAT, the try ends when the attempted kick is blocked, and it is obvious the kick would not score. Neither team may score two points on a blocked PAT.

Have a great week of practice and let me know if you have any questions.

Jared