



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Football Memo #2

August 15, 2023

Good afternoon football coaches and athletic directors –

It's hard to believe that we are just days away from the first nine games of the 2023 football season. As teams continue to prep for their first opponent, we have a few pieces of information to share.

1. Drones

It is up to the host school whether drones are allowed to be used for any reason (media coverage, filming, etc.) during the regular season. One school may allow the drone to be used, while another school on your schedule doesn't allow the drone. Also, depending on the field's location, FAA regulations could dictate the school's decision. For example, at state cross country, drones cannot be used as the course is within a specific distance from the airport.

2. Film Exchange

We briefly covered film exchange information in the rules meeting. A joint letter from the IFCA and IHSAA regarding the topic can be found here: <https://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Football-Email-Regarding-Video-Exchange-in-Regular-Season.pdf>. As mentioned in the rules meeting, schools are not required to upload film from their scrimmage or Week 0 games into the pool. Nothing prevents the two schools from agreeing to a direct exchange for Week 1 if they desire. Any concerns regarding regular season film exchange need to be addressed with the IFCA.

3. Officials Mechanic Experiment

From a coaching perspective, this is more of an FYI than anything else. We are experimenting with a new mechanic this fall on free kicks (kickoffs) and scrimmage kicks (punts). A few other states have done this experiment and believe these moves have put their officials in a better position to see the must have calls (ball make it to the end zone vs did it go out of bounds at the two; blind slide blocks; muff vs. no touch) with only five officials on the field. Information on this experiment can be found here: <https://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Iowa-Football-Mechanics-Experiment8.14.23.pdf>

4. Heat Precautions – During Games

While I did cover heat precautions in our last memo, with games starting this week, I do want to remind everyone that NFHS Rules allow for officials to authorize "officials timeouts" to take time for water during extreme weather conditions. If you are the host school when weather conditions warrant these timeouts, take time to visit with your officiating crew prior to the game to make the final decision. Make sure that both teams have been made aware of any additional timeouts that may be taken. If utilized, this timeout should be taken as close to the 6-minute mark of the quarter as possible. This timeout should not be taken during the middle of a drive, but rather after the change of possession.

Finally, two housekeeping reminders. ADs please check your Bound account to make sure you have a football coach listed. Doing a quick lookover this morning, it appears we have 25 or so schools without a coach listed. Also, ADs and coaches, please verify the eligibility of your athletes prior to any games being played. We do not want to be in a situation of looking at forfeits because of a participant being ineligible.

Have a great first game or scrimmage this week. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared