



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Football Memo #3

August 24, 2023

Good afternoon football coaches and athletic directors –

I know it's been a trying week for each of you with the heat. While it's supposed to be cooler tomorrow, we are still going to experience temperatures north of 90 degrees throughout the day. As you've done already this week with volleyball and cross country events, locally you can change the start time or postpone the contest to Saturday. Our office does not need to be notified as you can make the change directly on Bound. Also, please refer to the August 15 memo for heat adjustments within the game. Just a few quick points before we kick off the season.

1. Helping the Runner

I've received many emails regarding the NFHS point of emphasis on helping the runner. The rule regarding the topic has not changed from past years and continues to read, "An offensive player shall not push, pull or lift the runner to assist his forward progress." If the rule hasn't changed, then why is it a POE? Other levels of football have a different rule regarding helping the runner, similar to NFHS rules regarding eye black and knee pads/pants. The play has become prevalent in short yardage situations, and if you watched a Philadelphia Eagles game last season, you know what type of play design we are talking about here. The key to the rule: the assistance is responsible for the ball carrier's forward progress. Contacting the runner while not adding to his momentum is not a foul. If progress has stopped, we should have a whistle to blow the play dead. Finally, it is also not a foul for pushing the pile as one cannot tell the direct contact with the runner.

2. Statisticians Outside of Team Box

As in past years, we will allow statisticians to work up and down the field and outside of the team box. There are a few guidelines for these individuals to follow. First, the individuals need to remain behind the restraining line. Next, the individuals need to work with and listen to the officials working the contest. If the official believes the individual is interfering with his ability to work the contest, the statistician would need to listen to the official and move. (i.e. requesting more space towards the goal line). Finally, statisticians are just that. They are not coaches and should not be signaling in plays or voicing their concern over an officials call. I do struggle supporting headsets out of the coaching box area as one has no idea who the individual is directly communicating with.

3. Overtime

Overtime procedures can be found at the following link: <https://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/IHSAA-Overtime-Procedures7.26.23.pdf>.

4. Audio on Game Film

I know video exchange guidelines run through the IFCA, but I ask schools to consider the following item for the season. When setting up your cameras on Friday night, attempt to discover whether the recording can be done without picking up the audio around the camera. While I understand that coaches and officials can mute their computer to not hear the audio, we believe some coaches/managers/etc. don't realize their voice is being recorded and as a result some inappropriate comments/language is making it onto the film describing their opponent or officiating crew from the previous Friday.

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

Jared