



# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Football Memo #6

September 20, 2023

Good morning football coaches and athletic directors. It's hard to believe that we are already in week 5. Just a few notes for everyone to keep in mind for this week and beyond.

### 1. Lightning Guidelines

The forecast for Friday is currently calling for a chance of rain and thunderstorms in parts of the state. As we covered in the rules meeting, if thunder is heard or cloud to ground lightning is seen, the game needs to be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes. In addition, if a weather app or lightning detector indicates a lightning strike within 10 miles of the venue, the game also needs to be suspended.

### 2. Suspended Games

Related to topic 1, suspended game provisions apply to games in progress and that are 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 schools' athletic administration, a game can be determined as over prior to the end of the fourth quarter and a winner declared. All games must be played to determine a winner (no tied games) by the following Monday of the suspension except for the regular season finale which must be finalized by Saturday.

### 3. Aiding the Runner

I had several schools reach out regarding aiding the runner after week 4. As we covered earlier in the season, the key to the rule is the assistance is responsible for the ball carrier's forward progress. Coaches, if you have a play design in which another player puts two hands directly in the back of the ball carrier for any extended period, there is a high probability of a foul needing to be called. Also, it is not a foul for pushing the pile as one cannot tell the direct contact with the runner.

### 4. IHSAA Rankings

Next Monday, our office will release the inaugural IHSAA rankings for 8-player, Class A, Class 1A and Class 2A. As noted in the rules meeting and August 25 release, each of the four ranking committees will create a consensus-based top 10 ranking with the intention of improving the IHSAA's postseason assignment and seeding process. As we have also shared, the postseason hosting criteria has not changed with the implementation of rankings this fall. District placement, district losses, head-to-head competition and finally the alphabet will be the criteria used to determine host sites throughout the postseason in these four classes. The first RPI rankings for Class 3A, Class 4A and Class 5A will be released the following Monday (October 2).

### 5. Reconditioning Standards

We have received correspondence from the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association through the NFHS regarding the reconditioning of football helmets. The correspondence can be found here and the guidance within the letter needs to be followed as you look ahead to the 2024 football season <https://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-24-NAERA-Recommendations-NOCSAE-Recertification-FINAL-9-1-23.pdf>

Let's hope the weather cooperates this week and we have an uneventful week 5. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared