

COVID-19 ERA NHFOA POLICY/PROCEDURE ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020

TRAVEL TO & FROM GAMES

Each official continues to be responsible for dependable transportation and travel to and from game sites and determining whether to travel with crew member(s) or travel individually. Officials remain responsible for arriving at game site on time and choosing whether to join crew for pre and/or post game NUTRITION and HYDRATION. Comraderies are one of NHFOA's greatest bonds and build crew chemistry, confidence and friendships as well as increased longevity, improved knowledge and better performance.

OFFICIALS ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL

Officials are responsible for arrival at game site 60 minutes prior to the start of the game ready to complete pre-game crew meeting and conduct all pre-game administrative duties. Upon arrival, all officials shall observe CDC social distancing recommendations and local ordinance from the time exiting vehicle until taking the field for live play. All conferences, crew, coaches and players require all officials to be wearing either an all-black or all-white mask. Any "NHFOA" designs must be approved by NHFOA Council with recommendation of Dress & Uniform Code committee and are not to be worn off the field.

DRESS TO & FROM VARSITY GAMES

Officials shall wear their on-field uniform except the striped shirt while traveling to and from a game site. Officials are encouraged to wear the black or white polo style shirt (w/ NHFOA logo) over the undershirt. This will allow officials to have dry shirt following game. Jackets, when worn should be black side out.

PRE- AND POST-GAME CREW MEETING

NHFOA has determined that the pre- and post-game meeting location should be decided by the Referee with consultation of home team management and crew. This will allow the determination of safest manner and location to conduct both meetings. Crews may use any option, depending on host school facility. The Referee shall discuss with home team game manager, typically AD, during week preceding game. Referee decides the best option for facilitating pregame including consideration of access to private and secure bathroom, bad weather, thunder and lightning delays, half-time and post-game need to change uniform, dry out, conduct private evaluation of game, need for secure location. The pre-game crew meeting may be done via conference call or skype style remote communication, IF all members of crew available. It is suggested that Friday night games have virtual pre-game meetings on Wednesday evenings and Saturday games have virtual pre-game meetings on Thursday evenings. Site specific situations may be best discussed on game site. Virtual meetings should occur after communicating with athletic director.

2020 Football Rules Considerations	NHFOA Position
<p>In support of the NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Football Editorial Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020 football season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.</p>	
<p>Return to Competition</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOOTBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>	
<p>o TEAM BOX (Rule 1-2-3g)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (for players only) in order for more social-distancing space for the teams. 	<p>Adopted by NHIAA. NHFOA supports allowing coaches the same space as players for supervision purposes within team box.</p>
<p>o BALL (Rule 1-3-2)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer. (see attachment addressing game ball personnel) 	<p>Ref/Ump Pre-Game Determination, however all officials shall have authority to request “fresh” ball.</p>
<p>o FACE MASKS [Rules 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c(4)]</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cloth face coverings are permissible. 	<p>NHFOA Adopted</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest. 	<p>NHFOA Adopted</p>
<p>o TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS [Rule 1-5-1d(5)]</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>**Still being determined at this time on how to best handle the tooth and mouth protector during the contest. The NFHS SMAC will update the membership as soon as guidance is developed for all sports that require a tooth and mouth protector.</i> 	<p>NFHS & NHIAA TBD</p>
<p>o GLOVES (Rule 1-5-2b)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification. (re: PLAYERS) 	<p>No Change from Existing Rule</p>
<p>o STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS (Rule 1-7)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each state association may adopt other playing/administrative rules for football for the 2020 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19. 	<p>NHIAA TBD NHFOA see attachment</p>

<p>o CHARGED TIME-OUTS-AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES(Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length. 	<p>NHIAA Adopted NHFOA: ALL time-outs shall be 2 minutes in length unless both teams are on field, is position to resume play. Consistency ALL games.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9- yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.) 	<p>NHIAA Adopted NHFOA Supported</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each game official should have own beverage container available at the field. 	<p>NHFOA Supported See equipment attachment</p>
<p>o INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING (Rule 3-5-7I)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick. 	<p>NHFOA Supported. For consistency purposes all stated intermissions shall be two minutes in length at start of season and until such time as in-season edit distributed to all officials and teams.</p>
<p><u>2. FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>	
<p>o PREGAME CONFERENCE, COIN TOSS AND OVERTIME PROCEDURES</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the coin toss, limit attendees to the Referee and one designated representative from each team. 	<p>NHIAA TBD; NHFOA Shall include Umpire for recording purposes. NHIAA shall determine number of captains (maximum per rule) to attend coin toss</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet. 	<p>NHFOA Supported. NHFOA verbally instruct captains, the Umpire and Judge shall while escorting from the 9's to mid-field. Captains to be positioned minimum of 6' from Referee and Umpire during toss and then take position on opposite 45yard lines, exiting field without handshakes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss. 	<p>NHFOA Supported NHFOA to verbally instruct captains. Umpire and Judge while entering the field and by Referee while administering coin toss.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel. 	<p>NHFOA Supported 1) Individual Officials to Monitor and Report to Referee, 2) Referee to Report to Game Administrator. Game shall be delayed until corrected by administrator</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overtime procedure to be the same as used for start of the game coin toss. 	<p>NHIAA TBD; NHFOA Supports and shall be consistent.</p>

2020 Officials Considerations for **Returning to Officiating**

In support of the Guidance for State Associations to Consider in Re opening High School Athletics and Other Activities document released by the NFHS, the NFHS **Officials Advisory Committee** offers these considerations for state associations for the 2020 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. These considerations are meant to cover officials while keeping in mind that protocols are different in each sport and adjustments may need to be made.

Return to Competition

1. Uniform

a. LEGAL UNIFORM

i. Long sleeves are permissible.

Individual Official's Choice,
Long recommended.
Preferred all wear same,
however not required.

ii. Long pants and shorts are permissible.

Individual Official's Choice,
Long recommended,
Preferred all wear same,
However, not required.

b. OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

i. Air horns are permissible.

NHFOA Adopted

ii. Electronic whistles are permissible.

NHFOA Adopted

iii. Cloth face coverings are permissible.

NHFOA Adopted - Solid Color; White or Black Only, NHFOA logo allowed with NHFOA Council Approval.

iv. Gloves are permissible.

NHFOA Adopted - Solid Color Only; Black Only – Nitrile Black Allowed.

4. Personal Responsibilities

i. If you do not feel well and COVID 19 symptoms are present, notify the Commissioner and Crew Members and stay at home.

NHFOA Adopted
(see attached NHFOA protocol)

ii. Communicate with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.

Ref minimum 2 Days prior to Game

iii. Bring your own beverages.

NHFOA Adopted (see attachment)

<p><u>2. Rules Considerations</u></p>	
<p>Officials are NOT responsible for monitoring activities of players, coaches or team personnel on sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. Monitoring responsibility remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.</p>	<p>NHIAA Adopted (NHFOA comment: Officials shall monitor and REPORT to Referee and Referee shall REPORT to game administrator unacceptable activity of clock operator, line-to-gain crew(s) and ball staff. Play will not continue until corrected.)</p>
<p><u>PREGAME CONFERENCE</u></p>	
<p>i. Limit attendees to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team; or speak with the team representatives in a separate meeting.</p>	<p>NHFOA NOT Adopted - Conduct as traditional. Referee and Umpire; Maintain 6' Social Distance from each other and team representative(s). Traditionally, captains do not to participate in Pre-Game Conference. Identify team personnel with sideline, medical and decision-making responsibilities.</p>
<p>ii. Use of headsets with other crew members (if applicable).</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported, individual official choice when offered headsets of others</p>
<p>iii. Script the conference to ensure consistency with both teams.</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported</p>
<p>iv. Coin Toss – Head Referee and 2 captains.</p>	<p>NHFOA NOT Adopted – NHFOA – Referee w/ Umpire to witness and record decisions. NO handshakes by officials or opposing captains, maintain 6' distance requires 12' square. Following coin toss Umpire to direct captains losing toss to proper 45-yard line. Referee to direct team winning toss to proper 45-yard line. No physical contact (signals only)</p>
<p>v. Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the court/field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet.</p>	<p>NHFOA NOT Adopted Per tradition; Ref & Ump locate head coach prior to coin toss. Maintain 6' social distance</p>
<p>vi. Suspend handshakes prior to and following the pregame conference.</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported</p>
<p>vii. Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported</p>
<p><u>3. Pregame and Postgame Ceremony</u></p>	
<p>a. Suspend pregame protocol of shaking during introductions.</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported</p>
<p>b. Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.</p>	<p>NHFOA Supported</p>