



MHSAA Football Officials Bulletin #1

September 15, 2016

Through the first three weeks of the football season, we have seen many examples of outstanding officiating! All in all, our crews and individual officials are doing a great job- keep up the good work! Some items have come up during the first third of the regular season and we would like to draw your attention to these things in this first bulletin.

1. **Equipment & Uniforms**: All officials must enforce the uniform and equipment rules consistently each and every week. We continue to see teams with jerseys that are NOT covering the shoulder pads, rib pads and auxiliary back pads. All crews must be diligent in getting players and coaches to make sure all of these pads are covered by jerseys which is required by rule. We are also seeing many instances of players with football pants are NOT completely covering the knee or even wearing pants without thigh and knee pads. Lastly, please make sure that all play card wristbands are worn on the wrist, not on the belt. Here is a link to a summary of the uniform and equipment regulations from the NF Rule book: http://www.nfhs.org/media/1016566/nfhs_football_jersey_rule_2016.pdf
2. **UNNECESSARY HITS**: We have received several video clips thus far with examples of players, both offensive and defensive, seeking out opponents that are clearly not involved in the play and making a big, but entirely unnecessary, hit. These are the types of plays that MUST be penalized by rule. Please review some of these examples in this year's MHSAA Football Video Bulletin #1 that is now posted on the Officials and Football pages at MHSAA.com.
3. **:40 Play Clock**: For those crews that have worked a game using the experimental :40 play clock, please make sure to provide your feedback to the MHSAA on both the positive and negative effects during your game. These feedback forms at posted on the Football page at MHSAA.com.
4. **Helmet Add-Ons / Guardian Cap**: We have gotten a handful of questions regarding use of the "Guardian Cap" which is a football helmet add-on that attaches outside of the helmet. In 2012, the NF determined that use of this product is allowed under NF Football rules and this stance remains unchanged today.

5. **Interesting Play from Last Weekend**: We have had a handful of questions regarding the last two plays from the CMU-Oklahoma State game last Saturday. Please know that many elements of the college and high school rules are very similar, if not the same. We encourage all officials to review NF Football Rule 3-3-3 and 3-3-4 which cover the instances when a period is extended with an untimed down and those times when the period is not extended. The high school rule is the same in which a period is NOT extended when a penalty is accepted for a foul that also specifies a loss of down. We simply wanted to use that play from last weekend's college game to get all high school officials on the correct page when it comes to handling these situations at the end of any period.

6. **Rules Meeting and Rules Exam Deadline**: The final deadlines for the MHSAA Football Rules meeting and the 30-question football exam is at 11:59 PM today, September 15. This is the **deadline** for both of these items and no extensions will be granted for any reason after this time.

Thank you for all that you do for the great game of high school football in our state!

Nate Hampton & Mark Uyl
MHSAA Assistant Directors
September 15, 2016