

2008 NSAA FOOTBALL NOTES

Mark Football Field Properly

Activities Directors and coaches should see that football fields are marked according to the diagram on pages 12-13 of the 2008 NFHS Football Rules Book and Rule 1-2. Also, please refer to the 11-man and 8-man / 6-man football field diagrams that are located on the NSAA web site under Football. The rules require that they be marked with lines FIVE yards apart. Poorly marked fields often create arguments and game administration difficulties that can be eliminated by proper marking.

Lime Shall Not Be Used

Lines shall be marked with a non caustic, nontoxic material designed for marking fields such as powdered gypsum, calcium carbonate and liquid aerosol paint. It is recommended that these lines be white. Neither lime, hydrated lime nor other chemical derivatives of lime, nor caustic material of any kind may be used for marking football fields.

****New Rule Change:**

- **1-2-3a.** *White is the recommended color for all field markings. The rule continues to allow the use of other colors for field markings, when appropriate.*
- **1-2-3d.** *The restraining line can now be either solid or broken. It is recommended that a broken line be used and marked by placing 4 inch wide x 12-inch-long lines separated at 24-inch intervals. Only game officials are allowed in the area marked by the restraining line.*

* (Modifications to this requirement may only be made in stadiums where the total field enclosure does not permit.)

Tick marks or field reference marks. These marks shall be 12 inches in length and 4 inches in width and shall be located 9 yards from each sideline on an 11-man football field and 7 yards from each sideline on an 8-man or 6-man football field. The 9-yard or 7-yard marks shall be marked so that at least each 10-yard line bisects the 9-yard or 7-yard marks. These marks shall not be required if the field is visibly numbered. If on-the-field numbers are used, the tops of those numbers shall be 9 yards from the sideline on the 11-man football field and 7 yards from the sideline on an 8-man or 6-man football field.

The football field must be marked properly and every possible hazard removed in compliance with the provisions of the rules. Unless the turf is in good condition, the players are subjected to unnecessary injury hazards. Extreme care should be taken to provide every protection possible.

Sidelines and Fences and Goal Posts

Outside the sidelines the rules require a "Team Box" be marked. There shall be a barrier, preferably a wire fence at a distance of at least 5 yards or more, to keep spectators and everyone having no official connection with the game, at a distance. If boxes for the players and coaches are on both sides of the field, they shall extend between the 25-yard lines. If both benches are on the same side, each shall extend from the 20-yard line to 45-yard line. These boxes shall be at least 2 yards from the sidelines. Substitutes must remain within these boxes. Three coaches may be in the coaches' box, which is between the team box and the sideline.

Please make sure that the coaches' area and the team box area are properly marked. Also, it is recommended that a marking (dashed lines), be in place on the outside of the playing field so as to keep the media, non-game personnel, etc. away from the sideline. Barriers around the football field should be no closer than 5 yards or more from the sideline. **All goal posts shall be padded with resilient, shock absorbing material to a height of at least 6 feet above the ground.**

Points of Emphasis 2008

- Officials are to enforce rules of Team Box and Coaches' Area. This applies to all coaches, officials, players, medical staffs, managers, statisticians, media, photographers and game administrators.
- **Sideline Management – Absolutely no one is permitted inside the restraining line around the rest of the field. This is the responsibility of the Contest Administration (school administrators of both schools).**
- **Contest Administration is also responsible for:**
 - Protection of participants (players/coaches), game officials and spectators
 - Providing safe entrance/exits to field for participants and game officials
 - Separation of spectators from competing schools
 - Physical barriers so spectators cannot enter playing area
 - Adequate security personnel

Football Clock Operators

Schools should have a stopwatch available at all games in the event the field clock stops or fails to work satisfactorily. The Football Clock Operators and/or Scoreboard Operators should be adults and not students. Please refer to "General Instructions for Football Clock Operators" under Football on the NSAA web site for more detailed information.

Line-to-Gain Crew

In order for the Linesman to serve efficiently as a football official, he must have the assistance of good help in the person of a Boxman and two Chainmen. They should wear white jackets or other distinctive type of uniform so that they can be easily identified.

Football coaches and school administrators should select these assistants with care. They should have some knowledge of the game and, if possible, the same assistants should be used in each game. They must assume the attitude of an official and perform their duties according to the instructions of the Linesman. The Line-to-Gain Crew should be made up of all adults – no students! These individuals should have the physical ability to handle the required responsibilities and should be able to move out of the way of a play coming out of bounds. They should report to the sideline opposite the press box approximately 15 minutes before game time to receive instructions. Please refer to "General Instructions for Football Line-to-Gain Crews" under Football on the NSAA web site for more detailed information.

Football Public Address Announcer

Activities Directors, coaches and officials need to make sure that the public address announcers at all football games are not doing live play-by-play announcing during the game. The announcers should be done announcing when the teams break the huddle and come to the line of scrimmage, and should not announce again until the play is concluded. There is to be no announcing while a play is in progress.

Pre-recorded Music

* Prerecorded music that has been approved by the Host administration may be played during pregame warm ups provided that a high school band is not available to play during that time. Also permitted shall be the National Anthem or as accompaniment for the half-time performance of an authorized student dance or cheer group.

Football Helmet Warning Labels Required

All players shall wear helmets that carry a warning label regarding the risk of injury and a manufacturer's or reconitioner's certification indicating satisfaction of NOCSAE test standards. All such reconitioned helmets shall show recertification to indicate satisfaction with the NOCSAE test standard. The coach's pregame verification to the referee and umpire that all players are properly equipped in compliance with the rules includes the exterior warning label. (Please refer to NFHS Rule 1-5-1a for more detailed information.)

Bands Playing During the Game

1. The participation of bands at a school football contest is an exciting aspect of the event. The band contributes to the event by increasing the level of excitement and adding a "touch of class" to the festivities. In order to maintain a proper perspective and to insure equity in competition for the participating teams, a few guidelines must be followed.
2. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only.
4. During the contest, bands are to play only during pregame, halftime, postgame, the time between quarters, time-outs (except injury time-outs) and between plays (stopping prior to the referee's whistle for "ready for play").
5. Bands seated near the end zone should not play if the line of scrimmage is inside the 10-yard line on the end close to the band. After a touchdown, field goal, extra point, or safety, the band may play the school fight song, etc., however, the director must be sure to stop playing when the official blows the ready for play whistle to start the next play.
6. When bands want to warm-up prior to halftime, directors should arrange this so that it is done in an area that is not a distraction to the contest. Note: No whistles may be used while the game is in progress.

7. Because the band acts as a spirit group, members should always act in a positive manner and must not do anything to distract or negatively affect the opposing team. It is the director's responsibility to prevent his/her band from playing at inappropriate times, playing inappropriate music, or taunting the opposing team.
8. The band must display courtesy and respect toward the players, cheerleaders, and fans. To do anything else is not only a distraction from the contest but also reflects negatively on the band, the director, and the school. Support your school and team in a positive manner! Please be sure your band instructors understand these guidelines for all football games.
9. Please let the officials and the opposing team know when they arrive at the game site, if the intermission is going to be increased to a maximum of 20 minutes, if you're having special ceremonies or an extended band performance.