



Meeting 6 – Q&A

July 21, 2025



Q: How are Officials to handle tardiness?

- ▶ There is no active change in the expectation to punctuality
 - ▶ For Sub-Varsity Games, you are on the field at least 30 mins prior to kickoff dressed and ready
 - ▶ Varsity Games – you are expected:
 - ▶ Pre-Game begins no later than 1 hour and 15 minutes before the scheduled kickoff with official's onsite and prepared to take the field
 - ▶ Officials should take the field no later than 35 minutes before the scheduled kickoff
- ▶ Communication is priority #1
 - ▶ See the next slide
- ▶ Peer-to-Peer evaluations are coming back. If you want to see tardiness become a lesser issue with our association.....report it.....don't cover it up



Q: How are Officials to handle tardiness? (continued)

- ▶ Communication is priority #1
 - ▶ If there is a chance that you could be late....you should inform the referee early in the week prior to the contest
 - ▶ If you are late leaving work/home, use GPS and keep your Referee/crew aware of your ETA
 - ▶ When you have already announced as being late, and you arrive onsite, immediately inform your crew when you arrive
- ▶ When to contact the Regional Supervisor
 - ▶ Sub-Varsity – Regional Supervisor should be contacted immediately by a crew member if someone is not on the field prior to 30 minutes before kickoff
 - ▶ Varsity- Referee's should immediately inform Regional Supervisor if any officials not in the locker room at **1 hour** before the kickoff



Q: Are we still reviewing documents for casts?

- ▶ Nothing has changed regarding review of documents for casts
 - ▶ Public School:
 - ▶ Trainers must provide a copy of the State Required Appliance Form that is signed by all parties and indicates the player's name and number
 - ▶ Documents are to be kept by the Trainer and the official is not required to keep any documentation
 - ▶ Mark your card with pertinent information in case it comes up at a later time
 - ▶ Private Schools:
 - ▶ Trainers must have some form of Dr. approval indicating the named player is approved to play
 - ▶ Mark your card with pertinent information in case it comes up at a later time



Q: What documentation is needed for a tinted eye shield?

- There is NO document that a trainer can provide on site that approves the use of an form of tinted eye shield
- The only pathway to approval of a tinted shield would need to be provided from the NCHSAA or NCISAA and thru your Regional Supervisor (who would notify the crew in advance of the contest)



Q: Has the directives related to uniforms (including jerseys tucked in) changed?

- ▶ There has been no change in the directive for proper attire
- ▶ If anything, our judgment of uniforms should be increased as it is a point of emphasis
- ▶ If a player is not correctly in uniform, follow this pathway
 - ▶ Ask the player to correct the issue
 - ▶ Give the player the chance to correct the issue
 - ▶ If the issue continues to exist after the subsequent play, send the player out during the dead ball period and always announce to your crewmates the removal the player and what was the issue
 - ▶ Note: Players should not be removed from formation, unless a safety issue exists
 - ▶ Note: We do not stop the clock when a player is sent off, unless a safety issue exists



Q: What are our parameters for Ball Boys?

- ▶ Ball Personnel does not need to be on the field during standard plays from scrimmage
 - ▶ An exception is permissible after a change of possession assuming the exchange can be done safely and swiftly
- ▶ If the offense wants to change out balls prior to a particular play (punt), there is nothing wrong with this as long as it does not interfere with the flow of the game
 - ▶ Recommendation should be made that the punter or snapper deliver the ball directly to the Umpire in a quick manner
 - ▶ If the umpire has already placed a ball and they have returned to their position off the ball, then no exchange will be permitted
 - ▶ Ball Personnel should not enter the field of play in this circumstance
- ▶ If the conditions are dry, and there is not an abundance of humidity, there should be no need to continue to exchange balls, however officials should do our best to professionally handle these circumstances



Q: What is the current directive regarding legal blocks below the waist?

- ▶ The type of offensive formation (e.g. shotgun, pistol or scrimmage kick) does not matter as long as the block is initiated immediately at the snap and is the initial action while the ball is passing thru the zone.
- ▶ It also does not matter from what type of stance the blocker begins his movement.



Q: When & Why do Umpires move towards the LOS?

- ▶ Umpires are tasked with multiple responsibilities related to the LOS (line of scrimmage) including:
 - ▶ Ineligible Receivers beyond the expanded neutral zone (primary)
 - ▶ Knowledge of whether a pass was caught behind the LOS
 - ▶ Knowledge of where a QB releases a pass beyond LOS (secondary)
- ▶ Timing is tougher to define.
 - ▶ Umpire Depth should be roughly 6-9 yards, but heavily dictated by the LB depth
 - ▶ Read your lineman before deciding to move forward
 - ▶ Be mindful of
 - ▶ Self Preservation is paramount. Recognize if there are routes picking off you
 - ▶ Proceed to edge of expanded neutral zone to officiate properly/safely



Q: How do we communicate ineligible on scrimmage kicks?

- ▶ All officials are responsible for knowing who is ineligible on all downs
- ▶ Recommendations for scrimmage kicks include:
 - ▶ Umpires should know all ineligible numbers on the LOS
 - ▶ Referees should also know ineligible numbers of their keys
 - ▶ Wings and Back Judges should know the numbers of their keys for all plays
- ▶ It is highly recommended that the handling of this scenario is discussed during pre-game conversations



Q: Is a snapper protect in a swinging gate alignment?

- The snapper is only protected when the alignment is a legal scrimmage kick formation



Q: When does sideline interference escalate to a UNS?

- ▶ Standard pathway for Non-Contact w/ coaches on the field in the side zone:
 1. Sideline Warning (non player foul)
 2. 5-yard Penalty (non player foul)
 3. 15-yard penalty (+ UNS against the Head Coach)
- ▶ Unintentional Contact with an official on the field or in the side zone
 1. 15-yard penalty for the 1st one (but NOT a UNS)
 2. 15-yard penalty for the 2nd time BUT also DQ of the Coach
- ▶ If a contact situation occurs first.....and then there is a subsequent non-contact infraction.....than that 2nd infraction is simply a warning
- ▶ Important Notes:
 - ▶ There are 2 very tricky parts here that we need to communicate correctly.....
 - ▶ The First Contact infraction does NOT result in a UNS, but the 2nd infraction becomes an automatic DQ
 - ▶ Even if the first infraction is a Contact infraction, any subsequent non-contact infractions must still follow the standard pathway (starting with a warning).



Q: With the new rule...how is a backwards pitch downfield handled?

- ▶ A 4/15 @ 50. QB1 rolls right out of the pocket & advances to the B37 where he is contacted by B58. Prior to going to the ground A1 pitches the ball backwards to A12, who muffs the backwards pass. Both teams attempt to recover the ball before it goes OOB at the B33.
- ▶ Ruling: A 1/10 @ B33. Snap 40.
- ▶ Key Notes
 - ▶ We would not have a bean bag
 - ▶ A backwards punch is a necessary mechanic in this situation
 - ▶ Although this seems contrary to the basis of the new rule...there never is a fumble.....so its handled very similar to prior years