

DIAA FOOTBALL RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- 1-1-4 Note Each state association may determine the number of game officials to be used.
- The contract between DAAD, acting on behalf of all DIAA member schools which sponsor football, and the football officials associations (Northern Delaware Football Officials' Association and the Delmarva Football Officials' Association) obligates both associations to provide five officials for high school varsity games and three officials for high school sub-varsity and middle school games. This agreement also establishes the fee per official that the member schools are obligated to pay at the different levels of competition. Additional officials, if requested by a conference or host school, will be paid the fee indicated by contracted agreement for the desired level of competition. However, an officials' association may donate an additional official on the field provided the participating schools do not object to a six/seven-man (varsity) or four-man (sub varsity) crew*
- 1-3-1 Note By state high school association adoption, the ball to be used in games involving only players below the 9th grade may have dimensions as found in the following table: (table lists weight, long circumference, long axis, short circumference and inflation pressure for balls used in high school and middle school competition)
- The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of a smaller football for middle school games (grades 6 thru 8). The smaller football must meet the specifications stipulated in Table 1-3-1 on page 15 of the 2016 NFHS Football Rules Book.*
- 1-3-2 Note By state high school association adoption, a specific ball which meets specifications may be mandated for post-season or state play-off competition.
- The DIAA Board of Directors has designated the Nike Vapor One [official NFHS] as the official game ball for both the Division I and Division II Football State Championships. Consequently, no other football may be used during any state tournament game. The DIAA Football Committee will provide at least three Nike Vapor One footballs for each state tournament game.*
- 1-3-7 Supplementary equipment to aid in game administration may be used if authorized by the state association.
- Requests to use supplementary equipment must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.*
- 1-5-1b (2e Note) By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.
- Requests to wear an American flag and either a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.*
- 1-6-1 Note Each state association may authorize the use of a drum by a team composed of deaf or partially deaf players in order to establish a rhythmic cadence following the ready-to-play signal.
- Not applicable to any DIAA member schools. No DIAA Board action taken.*
- 1-7 Each State Association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athletes/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter (Andy Bero) or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.

- 3-1-1 By state association adoption, if, at the end of the 4th period, the teams have identical scores, the tie may be resolved if a method has been approved by the state high school association. This may include extending playing time. The overtime is considered part of the fourth period.

The DIAA Board of Directors has mandated the use of the 10-yard line overtime procedure, as stipulated on pages 84-85 of the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book, for all varsity contests. Subvarsity games are to end in a tie.

- 3-1-2 By state high school association adoption, a point differential may be established whereby if one team has gained the established point differential, the game shall be terminated. A state association may also establish guidelines to use a running clock when the point differential is reached.

The DIAA Board of Directors has authorized the use of the running clock option as described below.

If, at any time during the second half, one team is leading its opponent by 35 or more points, the timing procedures will be modified as listed below.

1. *The clock will be stopped only in the following instances:*
 - a. *A charged time-out.*
 - b. *An officials' time-out for safety reasons, i.e. player appears to be injured, unusual heat or humidity creates health risk for players, player needs equipment repair, non-participant enters playing field, or other situations deemed to be safety related.*
 - c. *An official's time-out to administer a penalty.*
 - d. *A one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods.*
2. *If the differential is reduced to fewer than 35 points, regular timing procedures will again be used.*

Note: This rule modification does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game may be terminated."

- 3-1-4 Games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams agree to terminate the game with the existing score, or there are conference, league or state association rules which apply.

The DIAA Board of Directors has not taken any action on this provision and consequently, there are no state association guidelines pertaining to interrupted games. In the absence of state association rules, conference guidelines would apply and in the absence of any conference rules, the opposing schools would have to decide before leaving the game site whether the game would be resumed from the point of interruption or terminated with the existing score.

- 3-1-5 Note 1 By state high school association adoption, games involving combinations of 9th grade students with students in the 8th and/or 7th grades may be played in 10-minute periods.

Not applicable to any DIAA member schools.

- 3-1-5 Note 2 State high school associations may determine the length of halftimes, provided it is not less than 10 minutes and not more than 20 minutes.

*The DIAA Board of Directors has determined that the length of the intermission during a regular season game will be in accordance with Table 3-1 on page 40 of the 2017 NFHS Football Rules Book. *Special note is to be given to the Mandatory Three-minute warm-up Period. The DIAA Football Committee will determine the length of the intermission during a playoff game.*

- 3-2-1 Each half of the game shall be started by a kickoff. Before the scheduled game starting time the referee, in the presence of the field captains, shall toss a coin which the visiting captain shall call. If the coin toss, or simulated coin toss, is held on the playing field, it shall be held three minutes prior to the scheduled game starting time, or as otherwise specified by individual state associations.

The coin toss will be held three minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game.

- 3-5-7k An officials' time-out (which is not charged to either team) occurs during a dead ball:
For a TV/radio time-out that is permitted and granted as authorized by state association policy.

The DIAA Board of Directors has not authorized television/radio time outs during either regular season or state tournament games.

Officials Manual General Reminders 8 & 9

The DIAA Board has approved the wearing of a two-inch black and white striped shirt, black shorts and full-length, black pants with a 1.25 inch white vertical stripe as a substitute for white shorts and traditional white knickers. This is provided that ALL crew members are dressed exactly alike.