

2024 FOOTBALL

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Photo credits: Joshua Genz, Brandon Hooten, Brent Murphy, Enrique Quintero and Alan Versaw

CHSAA NOW



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Revised 8/15/2024



Colorado High School Activities Association

'Seeking Excellence in Academics, Activities and Athletics'

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now.org



TO: Athletic Directors and Coaches
FROM: John Sullivan, CHSAA Assistant Commissioner
RE: 2024 FOOTBALL SEASON
DATE: July 2024

Welcome to the 2024 football season.

This bulletin is a supplement to the official CHSAA By-Laws. Coaches are urged to review and confer with their athletic director and principal in advance of the start of practice to ensure there is a clear understanding of all eligibility and playing rules including rule changes and areas of emphasis from officials. The bulletin is designed to provide both in season and post season information including playoff procedures, formats and dates.

Safety information from the CHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee is included in the bulletin and should be reviewed by coaches prior to the start of the season to ensure safety precautions are followed.

The CHSAA asks that administrators and coaches please work with your student section and fans to improve spectator behavior. Head coaches should communicate sideline expectations with all assistant coaches and players prior to the first contest. The relationship and communication between head coaches and officials is important to modeling proper sideline behavior.

Good luck and THANK YOU for all you do for our student athletes and bettering the game. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me or my executive assistant, Sandra Williamson, at (303) 344-5050. (jsullivan@chsaa.org / swilliamson@chsaa.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Sullivan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'S'.

John Sullivan
CHSAA Assistant Commissioner

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CHSAA **NOW**

2024 CHSAA FOOTBALL CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES

August 12 (NFHS Week 6).....	First formal practice
August 12-14 (NFHS Week 6).....	No football protective equipment – helmets ONLY
August 15 (NFHS Week 6).....	Players full uniform, Pads - Full uniform/pads, but no contact allowed between players (limited to hitting pads and control drills). Sleds and bags may be used on all scheduled practice dates.
August 16 (NFHS Week 6).....	First day of FULL physical contact
August 22 (NFHS Week 7).....	First allowable Scrimmage or Zero Week
August 29 (NFHS Week 8).....	Football Week 1
September 16 (NFHS Week 11).....	Eligibility Regain Date
November 2 (NFHS Week 17).....	Regular Season Ends except for 3A
November 9 (NFHS Week 18).....	Football Prelims except for 3A
November 15 (NFHS Week 19).....	3A Football Prelims
November 23 (NFHS Week 20).....	6M/8M/1A/2A Football Semifinals
November 30 (NFHS Week 21)	3A/4A/5A Football Semifinals
November 29-30 (NFHS Week 21).....	6man/8man/1A/2A Football Championship @ CSU Pueblo 6man & 1A 1:00pm; 8man & 2A 6:00pm
December 7 (NFHS Week 22).....	3A/4A/5A Football Championship 10:00am/2:00pm/6:00pm @ Canvas Stadium @CSU
December 18.....	CHSAA Football Committee Meeting

Start of Formal CHSAA Practice: August 12, 2024

All players must have completed physicals and signed parent permission forms submitted to the athletic director prior to the start of practice on this date. Players may start accumulating the required nine days of practice only after the start of practice on August 12th.

Please note: You may have informal practice, camps/clinics prior to the formal start date but no school protective equipment may be used (exception: Helmets), nor can these informal sessions, camps or clinics have mandatory attendance required ([see CHSAA Bylaws, 1780 Physical Exams and 2310 Practice](#)). Bags, shields, etc. are not considered to be protective equipment.

Summer Camp Rules: Bylaw 3310.1

- 10-day contact camp between Memorial Day and August 1st.
 - Camps can be conducted by college/university OR may be their own team camp.
 - Follow 4 day equipment progression

Formal Practice and Equipment Use Dates

- August 12-13-14, – Shoes, jerseys and helmets may be worn
- August 15 – Full uniform/pads, but no contact allowed between players (limited to hitting pads and control drills). Sleds and bags may be used on all scheduled practice dates.
- Friday, August 16 – Full contact allowed.

Reminder: **All practice dates are limited to one-practice per day.**

(Bylaw 3310.1)

No pads or other components of regular football uniforms except shoes, jerseys and helmets may be worn by the players until the fourth day of the formal sports season. On the fourth day of the formal sports season, players may wear a full regular football uniform and pads while engaging in blocking and tackling exercises that do not include physical contact between players.

- (a) **ISSUE RESTRICTIONS** — *The issuing of protective football equipment except during the formal sports season is a violation.*

EXCEPTION 1: To allow individual players who participate in football exercises or drills while in shorts, 7 on 7 competitions, and 7 on 7 drills to use Colorado issued helmets under the following criteria:

1. *The issuing of the football helmet is approved by the local school district.*
2. *Football helmets for drills and 7 on 7 may NOT be distributed before Memorial Day.*

EXCEPTION 2: An individual or team camp may use Colorado high school-issued protective football equipment under the following criteria:

1. *The issuing of the equipment is approved by the local school district.*
2. *Camps must be conducted by a college/university, an appropriate commercial organization or an individual high school.*
 - a. *High schools may develop their own team camp on site or at any other location.*
3. *The camp must show proof of liability insurance.*
4. *Camps must be for students and/or teams from a variety of different schools if it is conducted by a college/university or an appropriate commercial organization. Players from a minimum of six schools must be involved in the camp. Individual school camps limit participation to those students who have completed the registration process for enrollment into that high school. (NOTE: only students from the high school sponsoring the camp may participate.)*
5. *The camp should be for a period of time that is typical for camps/clinics (3-5 days) at a college/university or an appropriate commercial organization. Camps held at individual high schools can be a maximum of 10 days at the individual school site over a period of 14 calendar days.*
6. *Camps held at individual high schools will be allowed the same period of time as the college/university camp guidelines listed above. They will follow the same progression prior to attending, by developing a four-day camp which includes, three days in helmets, followed by one day full pads with no player to player contact.*

Schools may conduct a lower-level team camp concurrent with the varsity camp, or at a separate time. An individual may only attend one ten-day team camp. If camps are held at separate times and/or locations, the individual must choose to attend either the varsity or lower-level camp. he/she/they cannot attend both.

If camps are run concurrently, the individual may only participate in either the varsity or the lower-level scrimmage. he/she/they cannot participate in both.

7. *Issuing equipment for camps held at individual school sites will mirror the restrictions of the formal football sports season. No pads or other components of regular football uniforms except shoes, jerseys, and helmets may be worn by the players until the fourth day of the team camp. On the fourth day of the team camp, players may wear a full regular football uniform and pads while*

engaging in blocking and tackling exercises that do not include physical contact between players. On the fifth day, full player-player contact may begin.

8. *COMMERCIAL/COLLEGE CAMP Schools may attend a camp conducted by a college/university for a typical period (3-5 days). Prior to attending, high schools must develop a four-day camp, which would include, three days in helmets, followed by one day full pads with no player-to-player contact. The four-day camp and the commercial/college camp must both fit within the 14-calendar day time frame already established. The four-day lead up practices may not begin until Memorial Day.*
9. *Equipment must be returned and collected immediately.*
10. *Equipment for team camps cannot be issued prior to Memorial Day or after August 1.*

Summer Equipment Issue Limitations ([Article 33, rule 3310, Exception](#))

Equipment Fitting

Coaches may fit equipment to players prior to the start of formal practice. This equipment must be secured in a location that is unavailable to players until the above stated equipment use dates. Players should not have access to this equipment until the specified equipment issue dates. Resources – USA Football Heads Up Equipment Fitting and USA Football – Proper Equipment Fitting.

Transfer/Academic Eligibility

The eligibility for fall 2023 football players should be checked immediately following the end of the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year. A good rule of thumb to avoid problems with the transfer rule is that if you don't recognize the player; make sure the athletic director has cleared him/her to practice.

Summer School Make-Up

If you have student/athletes who have been declared academically ineligible due to failing classes during the second semester of the previous school year, they may regain eligibility through the completion of summer school courses. The student must make up previous failures and the school must accept this credit and place it on the school transcript. The deadline for the completion of summer school make-up credit is the Monday of the NFHS Week Nine (August 28th 2023). ([CHSAA Bylaw 1750.1](#))

Eight Grade Contact

1900.5 A person, acting in the capacity of the high school coach or serving in a role representing the high school, may have informational meetings with eighth-grade students who live in that high school's attendance area as established by the school district, or with those eighth-grade students that have pre-registered to attend that high school; the coach may conduct practice with those eighth graders starting May 1. This contact may include currently registered underclassmen, and the Sunday Contact rule applies to this contact after May 1.

Q1: At what point does an 8th grade student become eligible to participate with high school aged students at a school sponsored activity (i.e. camps, practice, weight room, off-season workouts, etc.)?

A1: Beginning May 1st, 8th graders that have pre-registered or live in the attendance area to attend that high school may participate with/against under classmates.

Q2: May 8th graders compete on the same team with high school students who are participating for their high school?

A2: No. It should be noted that when a Colorado school plays an out of state school that allows 8th grade students to play on their teams, the Colorado school has permission to play against that out of state school. All other CHSAA rules apply.

Q3: *May a school district have an information night to view all schools programs, as well as athletic programs for 8th grade students?*

A3: *Yes, if all students are invited and if the program is directed toward the school in general and not just a specific sport such as football, volleyball, etc. It should be an open meeting for any school to disseminate information.*

Q4: *Can a HS coach have a camp or a clinic with eighth graders present?*

A4: *Yes, as long as there are no high school students from his/her/their school present until the May 1 date as defined by the bylaws.*

Rules Meeting Required for All Coaches

All coaches in all varsity sports are required to attend a CHSAA-approved rules clinic in their sport prior to the start of the first game of the season. *This is a mandatory meeting for all coaches and will be invited through their account in the Rschool platform.*

The football season shall begin in correspondence with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Calendar week seven. The competitive season shall be from August 22, 2024 until the final state championship.

The issuing of protective football equipment except during the formal sports season is a violation.

Youth Recognition Night (Bylaw 1900.6)

Youth recognition events/games will be defined, for the purpose of setting school protocol, as an event where individual, group or district student participants, of middle-school or younger age are recognized at a CHSAA member school athletic event. Legal and illegal protocols for such events are clearly defined below:

Acceptable:

- Free admission
- Pre-game, half-time or post-game introductions or announcements with group visibility on field, court, playing arena.
- Groups may be recognized for their participation or involvement in youth activities only.
- Teams or groups invited; must have a logical tie to the high school.

Unacceptable:

- Youth on sideline during warm-up or game*
- Youth in locker room or involved in any activities associated with the team.
- Current players/coaches cannot be involved in recognition or ceremony on any level.
- Youth receiving any merchandise, meals, or school related tokens.
- Youth provided transportation to and from event.
- Illegal contact can result in the sport specific teams' placement on probation/restriction.
- No gifts, food, certificates, school gear, prizes or awards of any kind can be handed out.
- No individual or specific group or team can be singled out at the event separate from the rest of the invitees.

* Football sidelines will be defined as running the entire length of the field. If youth athletes/teams are at a game for recognition, they should be in the endzone or in the stands when not being recognized.

2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE DATES

NFHS Week	Football Week	Date (2024)
WEEK 7	WEEK 0	August 22
WEEK 8	WEEK 1	August 29
WEEK 9	WEEK 2	September 5
WEEK 10	WEEK 3	September 12
WEEK 11	WEEK 4	September 19
WEEK 12	WEEK 5	September 26
WEEK 13	WEEK 6	October 3
WEEK 14	WEEK 7	October 10
WEEK 15	WEEK 8	October 17
WEEK 16	WEEK 9	October 24
WEEK 17*	WEEK 10*	October 31
WEEK 18**	WEEK 11**	November 8

* = End of Season 6man/8man/1A/2A/4A/5A

** = End of Season 3A

CHSAA WEEK 1 = NFHS WEEK 8

Please note: Two scrimmage dates are permitted for your football program. If the varsity scrimmages on Friday and the JV scrimmages on Saturday, your two allowable scrimmage dates have been utilized for the regular season. Each team/player may only participate in one scrimmage.

CHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

"Seeking Excellence in Academics, Activities, and Athletics"

In pursuit of excellence, the Colorado High School Activities Association strives to create a positive and equitable environment in which all qualified student participants are challenged and inspired to meet their highest potential.

To fulfill this mission the Colorado High School Activities Association will:

- Act as an integral component of the educational process.
- Administrate, interpret, and seek compliance with the CHSAA By-laws as needed to promote fair play within Colorado activities and athletics.
- Provide diverse and equitable opportunities for participation that encourages all qualified students to take part in the activity/athletic experience.
- Provide an environment that enhances personal development through sporting behavior, character education, teamwork, leadership, and citizenship while increasing values that partner the educational standards of the State of Colorado.
- Recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Colorado athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators through our academic and activity awards programs.

Colorado High School Activities Association

2024-2025 FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Levi Kramer, Wray; Chairman, (2027, 1st Term)

NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS	POSITION	YEAR
Michael Jobman	Deer Trail	6man	P	25
John King	Fleming	6man	C	27
Colleen Ford	Lyons	8man	AD	25
Josh Vialpondos	Walsenburg	8man	AD	26
Reed Doughty	Flatirons Acad	1A	AD	26
Shawn Terry	Standley Lake	2A/3A	AD	25
Cory Ticnor	Berthoud	2A	C	27
Aaron Bravo	District 60	3A	DAD	26
Sean Scribbick	Greeley Central	3A	AD	27
Gregg Hawkins	Palisade	3A	AD	26
Mike Griebel	TJ	4A	C	25
Paul Jefferson	Gateway	4A	AD	26
Wes Smock	Grandview	5A	AD	27
Mike Hughes	Lakewood	5A	AD	26

Advisory Members: Adam Baumgartner, DAD D70 and Chris Noll, DAD D11

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 9:00 am

If you have suggestions or proposed changes that you want the committee to consider, please submit to;

Levi Kramer, Wray Superintendent, Football Committee Chair (lkramer@wrayschools.org)

John Sullivan CHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Football (jsullivan@chsaa.org)

Proposals must be submitted two weeks prior to the committee meeting to be included on the agenda.

HOW TO GET RECOMMENDED FOR 2025-2026 FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Contact your league president or Legislative Council Representative in February and request to be nominated. From nominations received, the CHSAA Staff makes the selections based on balance of classifications, geographical regions, and other areas to help balance representation.

CHSAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: MAJOR CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

I. MAJOR CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

- a. Removal of the second option for padded camps and a return to pre-Covid padded camp protocols.
 - i. Removal of the second option for padded camp removes the need for bylaw 3300.2 to exist (zero week option for schools participating in the second padded camp option)
- b. Recommend support for change to Bylaw 3300.1- Season of sport from NFHS week 8 to NFHS week 7
 - i. First contest could occur during NFHS week 7 (zero week).

II. RATIONALE:

- a. Currently there is confusion regarding start dates, camp dates, and scrimmage options. Having One date that is similar for everyone will add clarity to the dates and options. Bylaws are written for one camp option from Memorial day – August 1.
- b. Increasing the number of available weeks to play games will help alleviate the strain on officials by moving games from the current football weeks 1-10 to a zero week. The additional week will allow for flexibility in scheduling and create the possibility of one (or two) bye week(s) during the regular season. The amended 3300.1 removes the need for bylaw 3300.2

III. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

- a. None
- b. None

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. Committee meeting was held on December 15, 2023
- b. Discussion about creating a sub-committee to reviewing scheduling options for the 26-28 cycle. Chris Noll will lead the sub-committee
- c. Use the Maxpreps app instead of the Maxpreps website for seeding and selection index. This would align with other sports and allow the CHSAA office to run updates as often as needed.
- d. Approved the use of 7 man officiating crews for all 4A playoff games.
- e. Standard quarter time for lower level games will be 10 minutes. Coaches may agree to have 12 minute quarters and should communicate that to the referee on a date prior to the game date.

CHSAA Legislative Council Link: [Click Here](#)

CHSAA Bylaws: [Click Here](#)

MAJOR CHANGES 2024-2025

1. ***CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS***
-- Constitution & Bylaws, Article 1500, Rule 1500.1, 1500.2
1500.24, 1500.25, 1500.26 & 1510..... page 40-45
2. ***COACHES REQUIRED TO ATEND RULES MEETING***
-- Constitution & Bylaws, Article 16, Rule 1650.1page 50
3. ***KEEP SPRING SEASON OF SPORT CONSISTENT***
-- Constitution & Bylaws, Article 28, Rule 2890 page 119
4. ***FOOTBALL SEASON OF SPORT***
-- Constitution & Bylaws, Article 34, Rule 3401.1page 124
5. ***ICE HOCKEY SEASON OF SPORT***
-- Constitution & Bylaws, Article 37, Rule 3700.1 page 129
6. ***T & PF PROCESS & STRUCTURE CHANGE***
-- CHSAA T & PF Committee Report
Please refer to CHSAANow.com, Legislative Council, January Committee Reports

Please note that the CHSAA staff continually updates the CHSAA Constitution and Bylaws as needed. The most updated document can be found at CHSAANOW.com.



Football Rules Changes - 2024

Clarified Home Team Uniform Requirement For Each Player [1-5-1b(3)] — The jerseys of the home team shall all be the same dark color(s) that clearly contrasts with white.

2024 EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-3-1b; 1-3-1i(5); 1-5-1a(1); 1-5-1d(5)a; 1-5-2b; 1-5-3b(6); 1-5-3c(6); 2-8; 2-32-16b, f; 9-5-1g; 9-8-1j; 9-8-3 PENALTY; 10-3-1c NOTE; 10-4; 10-5; NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS; PENALTY SUMMARY; INDEX.

2024 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship and Altercation Prevention and Protocol

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), state associations, coaches and game officials across the country are concerned as unsporting behavior in education-based athletics continues to escalate across all sports. A commitment to a collaborative, working relationship to promote good sportsmanship and teach and enforce NFHS rules and state association expectations is paramount to continue to safely conduct the game.

Everyone associated with high school football has a role to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at games. The NFHS must continue to address poor sporting behavior and promote the value of good sportsmanship. State associations must clearly set expectations in regard to unsportsmanlike behavior and enforce association rules regarding violations of those expectations. School administrators and coaches must teach, promote, model and set clear standards of behavior for themselves, players and fans. School administrators and coaches should also ensure that additional personnel on the sideline, outside the team box, adhere to set standards of sportsmanship. Game officials must fairly and consistently enforce NFHS rules in all aspects related to unsporting behavior by coaches and participants. Players and parents must model respect for coaches and game officials' decisions, opponents and adhere to and promote the set expectations regarding sportsmanship.

Everyone involved must clearly understand that education-based athletics is an extension of the classroom and is about more than just winning and losing, getting scholarships and gaining accolades. Education-based athletics is about learning, and the conduct and actions of everyone involved should reflect this.

In order to prevent unsportsmanlike issues from escalating please consider the following preventive protocols.

Fight or Altercation Protocol

Most fights end quickly. Fights that escalate beyond the initial incident tend to do so because others run toward the fight. Running toward a fight normally contributes to the escalation of the altercation.

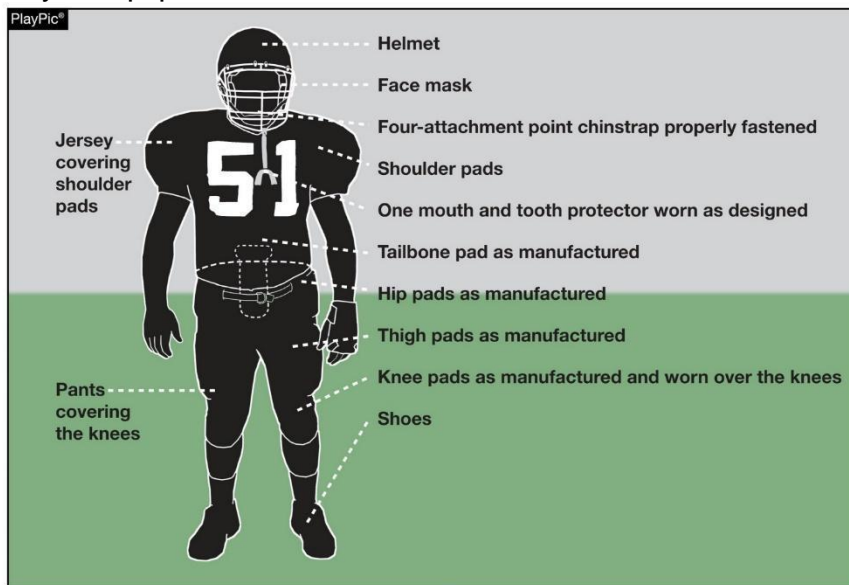
1. Prepare before it happens. Make sure to instruct and even practice what to do in case an altercation occurs.
 - a. Assign specific coaches or administrators to run to the altercation to assist with breaking it up.
 - b. Assign specific coaches to immediately step off the sideline and turn their attention to keeping the players on the sideline.
 - c. Team members already on the field should distance themselves from the altercation.
 - d. Educate all participants about the penalties associated with fighting, leaving the team area, taunting, using offensive gestures, and other unsportsmanlike acts.
 - e. Instruct your video crew to continue to record or to start recording if an altercation occurs.
 - f. Know where security is stationed.
 - g. Keep all non-essential people off the sideline and preferably behind a fence or barrier.
2. If an altercation does occur, execute the above plan.
3. Once the participants are separated, keep them separated until play can safely resume or until administrators and game officials decide how to proceed.

4. Do not allow teams to simultaneously use the same exits or occupy the same areas following an altercation or chippy contest.

Handshake Line Protocol

1. Administrators/security from both schools should be stationed on the field in close proximity to the handshake line.
2. One team should be on the right and the other team should be on the left. Players from one team should not be allowed to walk down both sides of the line.
3. Absolutely no non-essential personnel should be allowed on the field or sidelines until both teams have reached a designated area after completion of the handshake line.
4. A coach or administrator should be stationed at the end of the handshake line to direct the players who have completed the line to a designated area on their end of the field. Do not allow the players to continue to the opposing sideline or to the other end of the field.
5. Have one or more coaches at the front of the line and one or more at the end of the line. Improving the current state of the game regarding the prevalence of unsporting behavior requires that everyone involved commit to addressing the issue. Civility, even in the midst of intense competition, matters.

2. Player Equipment and Enforcement



3. Formations

All coaches should spend time learning and periodically reviewing the current NFHS football playing rules so they can effectively communicate correct information to their players. Someone on the coaching staff should be assigned to monitor player compliance and understanding of formation rules during practice and game play. Early and consistent communication between coaches, players and game officials will permit the game to proceed with less disruption to the flow.

Game officials should monitor pre-game warm-up and communicate (through coaches) to allow them to correct borderline or illegal formation issues they have observed. Once the contest begins, preventive officiating skills should be used at the earliest opportunity to allow coaches to adjust before formation issues become egregious. However, formations that clearly and obviously do not meet the specifications of NFHS Football Rules 2-32-3, 2-32-9 and 7-2 must be penalized as fouls without warning.

MINIMAL GAME ADMINISTRATION EXPECTATIONS

- Clearly communicated event itinerary
- Required field markings and game equipment
- Clock operator(s)
- Line-to-gain crew
- Game Official accommodations
- Visiting team accommodations
- Support personnel
- Medical personnel
- Security personnel
- Hospitality for game personnel and administration, inclusive of game officials

Appropriate conduct of the public-address announcer is vital to the game atmosphere. The public-address announcer must be the first line of sportsmanship and must exemplify expected and acceptable conduct. The goal of the public-address announcer is to inform and not entertain. Giving play-by-play of game action and/ or critiquing game officials is unacceptable. The public-address announcer must be positive and respectful to all involved in the game.

Important NFHS Links:

- [Football Field Diagrams](#)
- [General Instructions for Game and Play Clock Procedures](#)
- [Instructions for Football Line-to-Gain Crews](#)
- [Officials Football Signs](#)
- [Revised Intentional Grounding, Chop Block NFHS Article](#)
- [Preparing for the Heat](#) – NFHS Article
- [Rules Clarification – Chop Block](#) – *from 8/2/22*

SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



For all CHSAA sports medicine policies, procedures, and protocols, please visit the [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Handbook](#).

Lightning and Tornado Policy and Procedures and Heat Acclimatization and Safety Priorities can be found in the [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Handbook](#).

PRACTICE LIMITS

- Practice is defined as time on the field including warm-up, stretching, practice and conditioning.
- Single practice dates should not exceed 2 hours in length with an additional 25 minutes added for water breaks. A minimum 2 water breaks should be incorporated each hour. Water should be readily available at all times. Helmets should be removed for water breaks during warm weather conditions or after intense or prolonged exercise. This will help cool the core body temperature.
- An additional 20 minutes of practice time may be added for dynamic warm-up and non-contact instructional time. The dynamic warm-up and instructional time will be helmets only, no shoulder pads. The instructional time will follow the USA Football Fundamentals model.
- Total time on the field including dynamic warm up (20 mins), water breaks (25 minutes), and practice time (120 minutes) is not to exceed 2 hours and 45 minutes.
- [NFHS SMAC Position Statement and Recommendations For Maintaining Hydration To Optimize Performance And Minimize The Risk For Exertional Heat Illness](#)

SPORTSMANSHIP

[CHSAA Sporting and Behavior Manual](#)

BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an official, please contact the CHSAA official's office at mtillman@chsaa.org.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Please note: All rules and policies contained within this bulletin are subject to the ADA's requirement to provide reasonable modifications for a disabled student(s). A reasonable modification(s) shall provide a disabled student with equally effective access [to the activity] unless the provision of such reasonable modification would constitute a fundamental alteration of the essential elements of the activity involved. Please refer to CHSAA bylaw 500 for more detailed information.

MINI CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

You can find the link for the Personal Trophy PDF [HERE](#).

Review: CHSAA Bylaws do not allow for Administrators to review or hear appeals related to official's rulings, judgment calls, or misapplications of rules.

No Video Review Will Be Conducted

Please Note: By playing rule and Bylaw, all results are considered final at the conclusion of the contest unless otherwise noted in NFHS playing rules for that sport.



Colorado High School Activities Association

Wilson[®]

*Any of these may be used in CHSAA regular and post season games

*One of these is mandatory to use in all CHSAA post season games

GST Leather:

- F1004 (Pro Pattern)
- F1003 (HS Pattern) *Official Ball of CHSAA.

Traditional Leather:

- WTF1233B Classic 1233 - Tan

Composite:

- WTF1780XBN GST Composite (HS Pattern)

MAX PREPS INFORMATION



Please use the following steps to start the MaxPreps process:

EXISTING USERS

1. Go to www.maxpreps.com
2. Select "Sign In" on the top right-hand side of the webpage.
3. Enter your e-mail address –This will be the e-mail address used to access your team.
4. Enter your password that you set when creating the account. If you do not remember your password, you can click the Forgot Password link on the Sign In page or you also can contact MaxPreps support at support@maxpreps.com, or MaxPreps Colorado representative, Gerry Valerio at gvalerio@maxpreps.com.
5. After entering your password, a person icon will appear at the top right-hand side of the webpage. Hover the mouse cursor over the icon and a dropdown box will appear with your list of coach admin accounts.
6. Click on the team you want to access to go to the coach admin, where you can update your schedule, roster and enter/edit stats.

1. The next time you visit the site, simply click on "Sign In" to access your team.

NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTORS/COACHES

1. Go to www.maxpreps.com
2. Select "Sign In" on the top right-hand side of the webpage.
3. On the Sign In page, click the Create an Account button in the middle of the page.
4. Enter your email address and complete the prompts through the registration process and select the appropriate role.
5. Once the membership process is completed, you will be prompted to Request Access.
6. Fill out the Request Admin Access form and it will be sent to MaxPreps for review.
7. You also can contact MaxPreps support at support@maxpreps.com for access, or contact MaxPreps Colorado representative, Gerry Valerio, at gvalerio@maxpreps.com.
8. Once this is complete you can follow the above instructions for Existing Users to login into your account.

CHSAA REGULAR SEASON GAME MANAGEMENT REMINDERS

RULES

All regular season and playoff games will be played under the 2022 National Federation Football Rules.

EQUAL FACILITIES

Although it is necessary that one team be designated as the home team, it shall be kept in mind that the game belongs equally to both competing schools. It is strongly urged that an early week planning meeting be held to cover all details connected with the staging of every contest.

The time period between the first and second half should be equally divided so that each school will have an opportunity to present its band/spirit team. If one school does not wish to provide any half time entertainment, it may relinquish its time. If mutually agreeable to both teams, the half time period may be extended from the normal 15 minutes to 20.

The same principle of equal facilities should apply to camera sites, dressing facilities, press box seats for spotters, etc. The visiting team should inquire early in the week about the availability of sideline heaters/cooling fans and plan accordingly.

WARM-UP TIME

Teams will have a minimum of 45 minutes to warm up before the opening kick-off.

COIN TOSS ON FIELD

The pre-game coin toss shall be conducted on the field by the referee in the presence of the field captains, three to five minutes prior to the scheduled game starting time. This is mandatory for all games; the toss may **NOT** be conducted earlier, followed by a simulated toss.

***Please Note:** Any pre-game performances and the National Anthem should be completed prior to the coin flip.*

SAMPLE GAME TIME COUNT DOWN

7:00 PM KICKOFF
6:57 PM COIN FLIP
6:54 PM NATIONAL ANTHEM
5:45 PM TEAMS TAKE THE FIELD

TIMEOUTS

The referee will personally inform the Head Coach when his team is out of timeouts. That is the last opportunity for a coach to question the number of timeouts he has remaining.

HALFTIME

The rules of the game concerning half time activities will apply unless officials are contacted prior to the start of the game.

TRY FOR THE EXTRA POINT(S) AT THE END OF 4TH QUARTER

If there is no time remaining on the clock at the conclusion of the 4th quarter and the try has no impact on the outcome of the contest, the try will not be conducted.

VICTORY FORMATION

Although the officials will pinch-in to closely to monitor the kneel down, they will not instruct your players on what to do nor will they physically interfere with the play. However, if the referee is given knowledge the offense will take a knee, the referee will announce this decision and soon as the ball is snapped if the quarterback does any football move other than taking a knee the referee will whistle the play dead and the clock will continue to run. Please emphasize good sportsmanship once the game has been decided. Officials will flag and possibly disqualify players for unnecessary and excessive contact.

END OF GAME CLOCK MANAGEMENT

Three game situations:

- 1) If the game clock is stopped and will start on the referee's signal:
 - with at least three (3.0) full seconds remaining, the offense may reasonably expect to spike the ball and have time for another play.
 - with less than three (3.0) seconds remaining (2.9 or less), but at least one full (1) second remaining, there is only enough time for one play.
 - with less than a full (1.0) second remaining (0.9 or less), there is not enough time for another play. The team should be allowed to attempt to snap the ball and then be told that time expired before the snap.

- 2) If the game clock is running and the ball is snapped:
 - with at least two (2.0) full seconds remaining, the offense may reasonably expect to spike the ball and have time for another play.
 - with less two (2.0) seconds remaining (1.9 or less) when the ball is snapped, there is only enough time for one play.

- 3) If the game clock is stopped and will start on the snap, there is enough time for another play if there is any time remaining.

40/45-POINT-MERCY RULE (All Classes)

In classes 8man, 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A, all conference and non-conference games played in Colorado, when a 40-point differential exists at any point during the game, the running clock will be used for the remainder of the game. (In 6man, the margin is 45 points)

The clock will not stop on:

1. Out of bounds plays
2. Incomplete passes
3. First downs
4. Change of possession (including touchbacks and fair catches)
5. Penalties
6. Scores

The clock will stop as required by rule on:

1. Time-outs (charged and injury)
2. End of period

This rule applies to all regular and post season contests, except the live televised championships.

Under the circumstances described above, the officials will continue to use the standard signals. The timer, prior to the game, will be given instructions by the game officials, and will ignore all signals regarding the clock except those given by the referee.

Please Note: *The use of this rule does not eliminate 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 period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."*

OVERTIME TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES

All tie games will utilize the National Federation tie-breaker system as so delineated and reviewed in detail in the National Federation rulebook.

CHSAA GENERAL FOOTBALL REMINDERS

OFFICIAL CHSAA FOOTBALL

All footballs used during the regular season and playoffs must be a National Federation approved ball. A National Federation approval must be marked on the ball (generally located near the valve stem).

The National Federation Rulebook specified that both a rubber-covered or leather-covered football is legal and the team on offense shall be the option of designation.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING PROHIBITED ON BALL (1-3-1h): The ball cannot have commercial advertising added to the surface. The only permissible items on the ball are the ball manufacturer's name and/or logo; school name, logo and/or mascot; conference name and/or logo; state association name and/or logos; and NFHS name and/or logos.

A Wilson ball must be used in all playoff games. Balls will be supplied by the CHSAA and shipped (2 balls - two to the home team, and two the visiting team) via UPS for state championship games.

OFFICIALS

Varsity games will use five officials per game; the junior varsity and freshman will use four officials per game.

FILMING/VIDEO TAPING

Film, Video Quality

Schools are encouraged to pay special attention in making certain the quality of film and video tape is the best possible to enhance the exchange of film/tape for playoff contests. Your assistance in this area will help with the administration of the playoffs.

Filming Best Practices:

- 1) Start recording from the huddle break until the whistle is blown. (If there is a No Huddle offense, start recording when the team is heading to the line of scrimmage for the play).
- 2) Zoom in tight enough to see the top receiver and bottom receiver on the screen. Also make sure the deepest Running Back and Safety can be seen. (It is more important to see what is happening on the field than the sidelines or the spectators).
- 3) On scoring plays and the end of each quarter, record the scoreboard

Playoff Game Films

During the playoffs, each opponent must provide full length game footage of the two most recent games when digital/videos are recorded. When the home team does not film/video, the next opponent may secure a digital/video from a previous opponent to consummate the digital/video exchange. Additionally, when schools use both digital and videotape, the exchange will be the same (digital for digital or videotape for videotape). When no mutual agreement is reached, the schools will exchange digital in cases where both mediums are used. When one school has digital only and the other videotape only, this will be considered a regular exchange. When a school entering the playoffs has not filmed or videotaped its games, then neither school will exchange, and this status should be communicated to the CHSAA Football Commissioner prior to the beginning of the playoffs. This exchange must be consummated by noon on Monday prior to the scheduled game. When necessary, use overnight mail to make the exchange. **Failure to meet the standards of this rule can result in penalties assessed by the commissioner.**

FILM/HUDL EXCHANGE

All of the current season's video will be made available on HUDL by 12:00 noon on Saturday. If a team has a Saturday game, then the video will be made available by 12:00 noon on Sunday. Any team that does not have all of their games available, will not be allowed to participate in the video pool.

CHSAA DRONE POLICY

The use of drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all CHSAA-sanctioned events, unless express written permission is obtained: 1) from the host school district during regular season contests, or 2) the CHSAA for any postseason/playoff contest. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, a drone is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

SCOUTING

Scouting of opponent's practice during the football season is unethical. The scouting of varsity games may not be done in the stadium press box.

SCOUTING BY VIDEOTAPE

- Videotaping by scouts must be done from a designated area in the stands.
- No electrical power will be provided by the home team
- No videotaping from the press box.

PROTESTS

No protests involving the judgment or possible misapplication of a rule by a game official will be considered by the CHSAA. However, coaches may direct questions to the game officials as they pertain to a possible misapplication of the rules in accordance with the National Federation Football rules. Coaches are encouraged to carry a National Federation Rulebook with them for all contests. Schools will still have the opportunity to protest a contest in accordance with CHSAA rules as it pertains to use of an ineligible participant. Schools which have knowledge concerning the ineligibility of an opponent are required by CHSAA bylaws to notify the CHSAA prior to competition.

FIELD COMMUNICATION POLICY

The home team is not required to provide communication devices to the visiting team. If a team's devices become inoperable, the referee, as a courtesy, should notify the opponents; however, the team with operable equipment is not required to stop using it.

USE OF BANDS

Bands are to be off the field five minutes before the kick-off and twelve minutes after the end of the first half. Bands must stay clear of the field immediately before half time until both teams have left the field. Arrangements for a visiting marching band are to be made by invitation only. Pep band members will be admitted at no charge with their sponsor and if they have their instruments.

Visiting team bands - During regular season and post-season games, a visiting school must obtain permission from the host-school administration to allow the band to attend and play/perform for a game.

TIMER, CHECK TIMER

The timer for all playoff contests shall be a faculty member or responsible adult. The visiting team is encouraged to provide a check timer, but if it does not, the home team timer alone is responsible.

ANNOUNCER

The announcer should be a faculty member or responsible adult who can set the tone of the game by calling the fans' attention to the following points of reference: (1) CHSAA contests are conducted under the strictest code of good sporting behavior; (2) The officials are neutral individuals, representing the Commissioner, and have been selected because of demonstrated ability; (3) Fans are encouraged to support their own team and display proper protocol and sporting behavior with respect to the opponent and officials' decisions.

PRESS BOX ACCOMMODATIONS

The home school is responsible to supervise proper accommodations in the press box. An adult should be assigned to handle this important function. Press box seats should be reserved for members of the media. They have been advised to call ahead and reserve seats. Sometimes this is not possible, and the person in charge of the press box should use common sense in admitting bona fide members of the press to a seat.

Too often, the press box loses its meaning, when faculty members, friends, relatives, district personnel, board members, etc., occupy it. This is not the purpose of the press box. Schools are reminded of the importance of maintaining good public relations and are encouraged to cooperate fully with members of the media.

CHSAA EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Every member school is required to create a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan (VEAP) for each site that the member school practices and hosts athletic contest. *(Please use this template that has been created for consistency).*

The VEAP must include location, emergency access, emergency contact information and a listing of each member in protocol's duties. An Annual VEAP training must take place no less than one time a year.

This plan must be completed for all on-site and off-site practice/competition venues.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Proper medical services should be provided as warranted. The site director will ensure that an ambulance is present or on call. It is strongly urged that a physician be present at all contests.

UNCONSCIOUS PLAYER

National Federation Rule 3, Section 5, Article 10 (b) – Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

BLEEDING PLAYER

National Federation Rule 3, Section 5, Article 10 (c) – A game official discovers any player who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person. The player shall be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Starting time due to weather conditions may be adjusted upon consultation and mutual agreement of the administrators from the affected schools. Emergency postponement consideration is to involve administrators from the affected schools and the CHSAA Commissioner (or his/her designee).

When a game has been postponed, it is the host school's responsibility to notify:

- (1) the visiting school
- (2) CHSAA office
- (3) officials
- (4) game workers
- (5) media (where applicable)

Playoff contests shall not be postponed without approval of the CHSAA Commissioner (or his/her designee). The Commissioner (or his/her designee) shall have the authority to select an alternate site in the event of poor playing conditions.

Initially, schools have the added responsibility of making alternative travel plans to contests based upon weather forecasts, etc. As a common factor, input and recommendations are to be sought from the Highway Patrol Division of Highways and Travel. If you anticipate poor weather, adjust the time when your team will depart and/or take an alternative route if possible.

Q: Do any CHSAA rules exist for determining the winner of a contest ended prematurely because of acts of God?

A: *No. 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 or league rules which apply. Conferences should consider adopting a policy to handle unusual circumstances.*

EQUITY STATEMENT

Members of both sexes are eligible to compete and coach in interscholastic football. The pronoun "he" is used in the bulletin in the generic sense and refers to members of both sexes.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUIRES CHSAA APPROVAL

Under [CHSAA by-law 2620.1](#), a school group or individual representing a school organization or group may travel out of state, not for competitive purposes, upon the approval of the local school board and/or administration.

MAXPREPS – FOOTBALL COACHES

MAXPREPS is the official site we use to collect data for regular season scores and statistics. Please report all game information to this site (www.maxpreps.com). More information and a user guide may be found on the CHSAA homepage: www.chsaanow.com

NOTE: Out-of-state opponents and scores must be verified by the Colorado team via Maxpreps.

COACHING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Each year, by the first competitive date of each sports season, all member school athletic/activity directors must enter all of their athletic coaches and activity sponsors (music, speech, student leadership, etc.), regardless of level, rank, or pay, into the CHSAA Database. All first-year athletic coaches and activity sponsors, regardless of level, rank, or pay, must complete the CHSAA 1st Year Coaches Course.

For more information regarding new coaching registration requirements please see CHSAA Handbook Bylaw 1620.

PLAYER EJECTION

Any player who has been ejected from a match or contest shall be disqualified for the remainder of that match or contest. In addition, the player shall be suspended from competition for the next scheduled match or contest played at the same level (sophomore, junior varsity, or varsity).

COACH EJECTION

A coach ejected from a contest for committing an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from coaching for the next regularly scheduled match or contest of the same level. He/she may not coach in any other contest at any level during this time.

A coach ejected from a game is automatically placed on probation according to policies established by the Board of Directors (For necessary action by the school administration, see Bylaw 2420.11).

A coach ejected from a game is required to complete the following courses offered on-line by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS): Sportsmanship; and, Teaching and Modeling Behavior. These courses shall be completed before he/she will be removed from probation and must be finished in a reasonable amount of time during the season to be determined by the school's athletic director.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT ACT (Example)

Immediately following the contest, the coach of Team A curses the game officials as they are leaving the field and prior to their return to their dressing room. This occurs: (a) before; or (b) after the referee has declared the end of the contest with the proper signal.

RULING: In either situation, this is an unsportsmanlike act. Fouls such as this foul will not involve a distance penalty as the game has ended for the purpose of on-field play, but unsportsmanlike acts such as this remain under the authority of the game officials for the purpose of filing necessary reports regarding unsportsmanlike acts.

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

Each league will determine all conference based on league bylaws and a league vote. A League representative will submit 1st Team All-League to Amanda McClure amcclure@chsaa.org

Note: Coaches who nominate a player All-conference on offense and defense would count as two selections.

ATHLETE/COACH OF THE YEAR

Each conference will select an Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year and a Coach of the Year at the conclusion of the regular season. The Players of the year must be a member of the All-Conference team. Both will be selected by a vote of the coaches at the All Conference Meeting.

FORFEITS:

- A. A team that wins because it is awarded a forfeit will count the game as a win for its season record. A team that loses because of a forfeit will count the game as a loss for its season record.
- B. If a school fails to field a team and does not play one game, each of its scheduled games shall be counted as no contest. Opponents may schedule a replacement game.
- C. If a school plays at least one game and discontinues its schedule, each of its games scheduled prior to the season shall count as a forfeit and will be computed in the RPI standings. If a non-conference game is canceled because a team discontinues its schedule, a school may reschedule another game during that week to replace the forfeit or accept the forfeit.
- D. All games scheduled after the start of the season must be approved by the Commissioner to count in the RPI standings.

SELECTION AND SEEDING TIE-BREAKER:

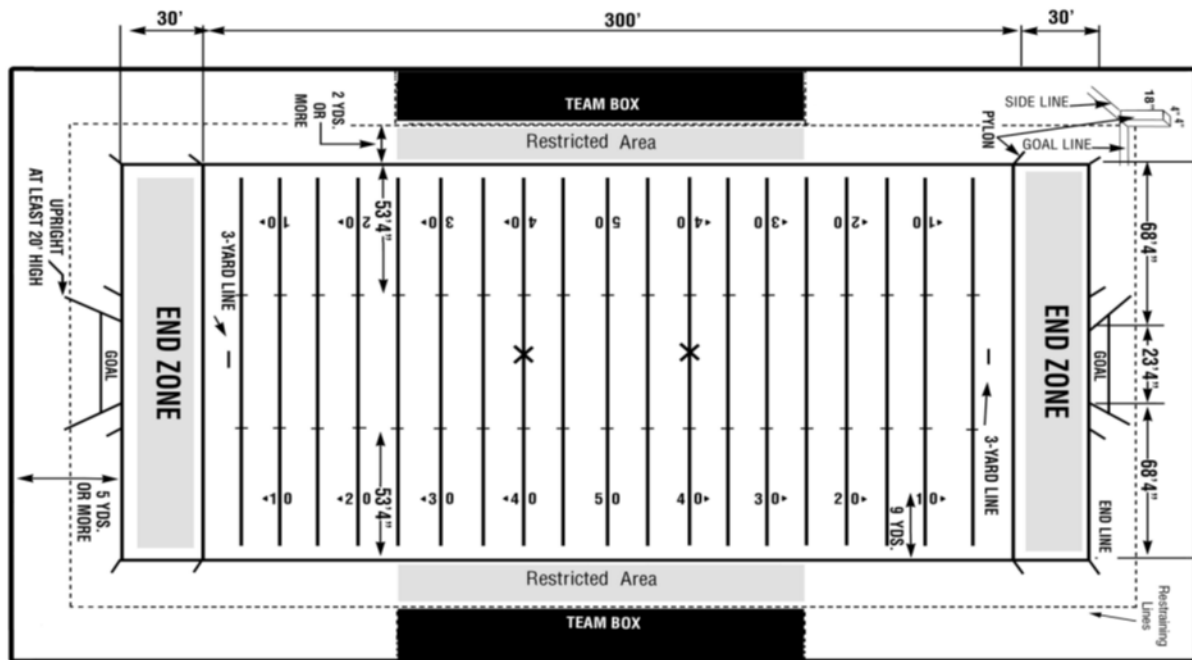
- A. If two or more teams have the same seeding index, the following tiebreaker shall be used (in the order listed):
 - 1) Head-to-head competition
 - 2) MaxPreps Rating
 - 3) CHSAA RPI Rating
 - 4) Coin flip
1. Teams playing an opponent twice will receive separate RPI points.
2. JV opponents will not accumulate Final RPI Standing points.
3. Enrollment for out-of-state schools will be equated to Colorado classifications.
4. The number of points a team scores in a game will have no bearing on the RPI point system.
5. **NO GAMES** - conference or non-conference - **WILL END IN A TIE**. If the game is to be extended, the National Federation tiebreaker method (10-yard line) shall be used.

CHSAA FOOTBALL FIELD/SIDELINE REMINDERS

FIELD SIZE (6Man, 8Man)

The playing field size for 8man football contests is 40 x 100 yards with 15-yard side zones. This pertains to all regular season and playoff contests.

The playing field for all 6man football contests is 40 x 80 yards with 15-yard side zones and the team box boundaries between the 25-yard lines.



CHAIN CREW/BALL PERSONS

Experienced chain crews are a necessity for sound administration of a football game. DO NOT NEGLECT SUB-VARSITY GAMES IN THIS AREA. Qualified ball persons are also an important part of on-field administration. Be sure that the ball persons you use are physically mature enough to handle the duties and do not present an injury risk to themselves or the players. As per National Federation Football Rule, as soon as a first down is indicated and the chain clipped at the five-yard interval, the chain and down marker should be moved back off the sideline six feet. Notify your chain crew of this procedure.

TEAM BENCHES, SIDELINES

During CHSAA regular season and playoff contests, the team benches and sidelines are to be restricted to authorized personnel consisting of substitutes, coaches, student managers, trainer and team physician. Parents, members of booster clubs, alumni and other such unauthorized personnel must sit in the stands. Schools are urged to issue visible sideline tags to those authorized for easy recognition. Do not allow teams attendants to walk the sidelines outside the team box.

SIDELINE MEDIA EXPECTATIONS

No media other than one's own team is permitted within 5 yards of their coaches' box.

SIDELINE ZONE FOR SAFETY

The CHSAA Football Advisory Committee strongly recommends that each field add a zone of two or more yards off the sideline be used as a restraining line to maintain a clear area for players and officials along the sideline. The zone will be marked with hash marks and would extend to two yards in back of the end zone line and extended across the back of the end zone.

Most Commonly Asked Rules Questions

Q1: Which gloves are legal?

A1: *Those which carry a securely attached label or stamp (NOCSAE Standard).*

Q2: Must all face masks and helmets carry the NOCSAE Seal?

A2: *Yes.*

Q3: Are colored mouth guards required equipment?

A3: *No. Completely clear or completely white tooth and mouth protectors are no longer prohibited.*

Q4: The NCAA inbound lines are 60' (not the high school 53' 4"). What should schools which play on college fields do to comply with the high school rules?

A4: *The first preference is to mark the field for high school requirements. If this is not possible, play as marked.*

Q5: We play our games on a college field which has goal posts measuring 18' 6" between the uprights instead of the 23' 4" specified in the National Federation rules. May our opponents or conference require that 23' 4" uprights be used in our high school games?

A5: *No. High schools using college fields may use the 18' 6" upright. Neither league nor opponent may dictate that the high school upright be used.*

Q6: Do any CHSAA rules exist for determining the winner of a contest ended prematurely because of acts of God?

A6: *No. 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 or league rules which apply. Conferences should consider adopting a policy to handle unusual circumstances.*

Q7: Can the timing of a sub varsity quarter be adjusted?

A7: *Yes – Schools/leagues should establish the time frame for league or conference opponents or communicate with non-conference opponents well in advance of the contest. It is strongly recommended that a 10-minute quarter be used for sub varsity games unless teams agree prior to the game to 12 minute quarters..*

Q8: Where may the coaches stand?

A8: *All team personnel must remain two yards behind the sideline while the ball is live. Up to three coaches are allowed in the "restricted area" - the two-yard belt adjacent to the sideline, when the ball is dead (9-8-3).*

Q10: May an athlete wear a tinted eye-shield with a Doctor's prescription?

A10: *No. All eye-shields must be free of any tint.*

CHSAA GENERAL, ELIGIBILITY & CONDUCT RULES

Please Note: Each coach should become familiar with all eligibility rules. CHSAA Handbook has been distributed to member schools. If you do not have access to this material, contact your athletic director.

Check the CHSAA Handbook for the details related to the following rules.

PLAYING OF AN INELIGIBLE WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE.....	Article 2400
SUMMER SCHOOL MAKE-UP Article 1750.1
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RULE Article 1870
PRACTICE Article 2310
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION/PARENT CONSENT Article 1780
MEDICAL RELEASE FOR INJURIES Article 1780.2

NONCONTACT UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY NONPLAYERS

National Federation Rule 9, Sec. 8, Article 1, "A substitute who leaves the team box and enters the playing field during a fight will be ejected. A player ejected for leaving the bench area during a fight is ineligible for the next contest. (Also, see "Who is Your Get Back Guy")

SUNDAY RESTRICTION – CHSAA Bylaw 2310.5

No high school interscholastic contests, practices for interscholastic contests, camps, nor association between participants and coaches/directors of any CHSAA sanctioned sport from the student's school shall take place on Sundays during the competitive high school season (start of official practice through the state tournament). The Commissioner may, when deemed advisable, allow postponed state-level events to be played on Sunday. Teams playing on Monday in district, regional or in a state-culminating event will be exempt from this rule.

Reminders:

1. The NFHS rulebook (Table 1-7, pg 24) delegate's authority to the state associations for certain rules. The following shall apply in Colorado.
2. The football committee strongly recommends that coaches share film with officials following each contest in an educational effort to improve the game.
3. The CHSAA Football Advisory Committee reminds schools that in the case of extreme travel, teams can elect to establish a site more conducive to that travel for a playoff game. This does not, however, alleviate the home school of its responsibility as host.
4. The Wilson football has been the designated ball for the CHSAA playoffs and must be used in all playoff games.
5. It is strongly encouraged that leagues do not use a point differential as a tie-breaker in league standings. Having point differentials as part of the criteria has created hard feelings and unsporting acts, due to late scoring attempts in order to reach the maximum point differentials.
6. P. A. announcers shall remain neutral.
7. Schools should assign official's escorts to and from the locker rooms at halftime and at the conclusion of the game. Officials should never be escorted through spectators.

Seeding and Qualifying

The seeding committee for all classifications will be the members of the football committee, minus any active coaches. If necessary, replacements for the active coaches will come from the same classification in roughly the same geographic area of the state. The committee will meet at the CHSAA office or online on the Sunday following the final week of the regular season.

Following the end of the regular season, the procedures listed below will be utilized to capture the playoff bracket and serve as the criteria used for seeding the bracket.

The top 16 teams (24 in 4A and 5A) in the classification based on the CHSAA Selection and Seeding Index will qualify for the post-season bracket. Each conference champion will automatically be placed on the playoff bracket. Conference champions are determined by the conference Bylaws or policies. If a conference champion is not ranked in the top 16 (24) based on the final CHSAA Selection and Seeding Index, they will replace the lowest ranked team that is not a conference champion in the top 16 (24).

Seeding Criteria (once qualifiers are determined)

The CHSAA Selection and Seeding Index will be utilized to place teams on the 16(24)-team bracket. Once on the bracket, teams can be moved one spot at maximum based upon a head-to-head regular season game, if they are consecutive seeds on the bracket.

- If the scenario exists where three or more consecutive seeded teams have all played one another, they will remain as originally placed on the bracket.
- A conference champion not ranked in the top 16(24) of the final seeding and selection index will be placed in the bracket.
- When possible, conference opponents will not be paired against one another in the first round and geography will be a consideration in the first round. These adjustments can be made for seeds #9-16/24.
- Only the league champion in both 5A Metro North and the 4A I-25 are eligible for post season.

Playoff Hosting Policy and Procedure

- 5A, 4A, 3A, 8man high seed hosts until finals.
- 2A & 6man high seed hosts semi-finals. 2nd round playoff game host shall be the team which has had the fewer home games during the state playoffs. If both teams have had an equal number of home games the team with the higher designation will host that game.
- 1A higher seeds host round one and home team at each subsequent playoff game shall be that team which has had the fewer home games during the state playoffs. If both teams have had an equal number of home games the team with the higher designation will host that game.

Informational Items and State Adoptions

The 6man through 2A championship game sites will be hosted at Colorado State University-Pueblo, 3A,4A and 5A will be hosted at CSU Fort Collins at Canvas Stadium.

In 4A and 5A, the top eight seeded teams will receive a first-round bye, and host in the second round of the playoff bracket. Teams seeded numbers 9-24 will play in the first round, with the higher seeded team hosting.

5A semifinal sites must accommodate a seating capacity equal to or greater than 5,000. Playoff schools that cannot accommodate the minimum seating capacity of their classification must designate a regional site prior to their first playoff contest.

The NFHS rulebook (Table 1-7) delegates authority to the state associations for certain rules. The following shall apply in Colorado.

1-1-4 Note Determining the number of game officials – Five for all levels with exceptions allowed on a case-by-case basis for A6 and A8.

1-1-7 Time officials assume authority – Whenever they enter the field.

1-2-1 Size of A6 and A8 fields – 100 yards for A8; 80 yards for A6 (p. 89-91 of Rules Book).

1-2-3g Note 3 Size of team box – No change; between 25-yard lines.

1-3-2 Note Mandating specific ball for playoff competition – An NFHS approved Wilson ball with logo must be used for all playoff games.

1-3-7 Use of supplementary equipment – Authorized.

1-3-7 Note Instant Replay – Not authorized.

1-5-1b, 2-3 Note Commemorative Patches – Must be requested of CHSAA on a case-by-case basis.

1-6-1 Note Use of drum for partially deaf teams – Authorized.

1-7 Reasonable accommodations for special needs - Must be requested of CHSAA on a case-by-case basis.

3-1-1 Note Procedure to resolve ties- NFHS overtime procedure (p. 86-89 of Rules Book).

3-1-2 Mercy Rule – The game is functionally over. The objective is to run out the clock as quickly and gracefully as possible with a total focus on safety while retaining some semblance to a normal game. It is an opportunity for second team and sub varsity players to get some snaps. Thus, throwing passes, etc. may appear to be “running up the score” when they are not. Please leave that type of sportsmanship issue to the coaches and be sensitive to teams who want to avert a shutout.

In all classes for all conference and non-conference games played in Colorado, except for A6, when a team is ahead at any time by 40 or more points, or goes ahead by 40 or more points, a running clock will be used for the remainder of the game. For class A6, the threshold is 45 points.

The clock will **not** stop on:

1. Out of bounds plays
2. Incomplete passes

6 Man Enrollment: 6-69

North	East Central	Central	Southeast	Southwest	Independent
Briggsdale	Arickaree	Bethune	Cheraw	Antonito	Flagler
Fleming	Genoa-Hugo	Deer Trail	Cheyenne Wells	Branson/Kim	
North Park	Hi-Plains	Hanover	Eads	Cotopaxi	
Peetz	Idalia	Kiowa	Granada	La Veta	
Prairie	Otis	Manzanola	Kit Carson	Mountain Valley	
Weldon Valley	Stratton	Miami-Yoder	Walsh	Primero	
Caliche			Wiley	Sierra Grande	

Updated 8/15

8 Man Enrollment: 70-158

<i>Mountain Conference</i>	<i>Northwest</i>	<i>Black Forest League</i>	<i>Plains Conference</i>	<i>Central League</i>	<i>Six County Football Conference</i>	<i>Arkansas Valley League</i>
Dolores	Hayden	Calhan	Akron	Belleview Christian	Crowley County	Holly
Dove Creek	Plateau Valley	Elbert		Front Range Christian	Custer County	Las Animas
Mancos	Rangely	Simla	Dayspring Christian	Gilpin County	Fowler	McClave
Sanford	Soroco	South Park	Haxtun	Justice	Hoehne	Swink
Sargent	Vail Christian	St. Mary's	Merino	Lyons	Sangre de Cristo	Springfield
Norwood	West Grand	Byers	Sedgwick County	Clear Creek	Walsenburg	Rocky Ford
	Lake County					

1A Enrollment 159-330

<i>Western Slope</i>	<i>South Central</i>	<i>Tri-Peaks</i>	<i>North Central</i>	<i>Frontier</i>	League 6	Independent
Cedaredge	Centauri	Colorado Springs Christian School	Burlington	Prospect Ridge	Estes Park	Pinnacle Charter
Grand Valley	Center	Dolores Huerta	Holyoke	Denver Christian	Platte Valley	Sheridan (JV Only)
Meeker	Del Norte	Ellicott	Limon		Highland	
North Fork	Ignacio	Peyton	Wiggins	Forge Christian	Manual	
Olathe	Monte Vista	Rye	Wray	Platte Canyon		
Roaring Fork	Trinidad	Buena Vista	Yuma	Flatirons Academy	Jefferson	

2A Enrollment 331-724

<i>North League</i>	<i>South East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Intermountain</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>League 7</i>
Eaton	Lamar	Coal Ridge	Salida	Mitchell	Englewood	Weld Central
University	La Junta	Moffat County	Montezuma-Cortez	D'Evelyn	Strasburg	Fort Lupton
Valley	Manitou Springs	Aspen	Bayfield	The Classical Academy	Elizabeth	Arvada
Wellington	Woodland Park	Basalt	Gunnison	Denver West	Kent Denver	Sterling
Resurrection Christian	Florence	Middle Park	Pagosa	Abraham Lincoln	Robert F Smith STEAM	Brush
Berthoud	Banning Lewis	Delta	Alamosa	Alameda	Bennett	The Academy

3A Enrollment 725-1238

<i>Southern League</i>	<i>Pikes Peak</i>	<i>Western Slope</i>	<i>West Metro</i>	<i>Metro</i>	<i>North 1</i>	<i>North 2</i>
Pueblo East	Discovery Canyon	Eagle Valley	Conifer	Hinkley	Roosevelt	Mead
Pueblo Central	Pueblo South	Glenwood Springs	Evergreen	Holy Family	Severance	Northridge
Pueblo County	Harrison	Battle Mountain	Green Mountain	John F Kennedy	Fort Morgan	Windsor
Canon City	Lewis-Palmer	Steamboat Springs	Summit	Littleton	Mountain View	Timnath
Coronado	Pueblo Centennial	Rifle	Skyview	Lutheran	Thompson Valley	Greeley Central
Sierra	Palmer	Palisade	Wheat Ridge	Standley Lake	Pomona	Niwot

Updated 8/15

4A Enrollment 1239-1709

<i>North 1</i>	<i>North 2</i>	<i>SOUTH METRO</i>	<i>DENVER METRO</i>	<i>SOCO 1</i>	<i>SOCO 2</i>	<i>I-25 *</i>
Loveland	Broomfield	Bear Creek	Montbello	Mesa Ridge	Vista Ridge	Centaurus
Frederick	Longmont	Dakota Ridge	Thomas Jefferson	Pueblo West	Palmer Ridge	Gateway
Poudre	Skyline	Golden	George Washington	Doherty	Rampart	Sand Creek
Silver Creek	Riverdale Ridge	Heritage	Denver North	Falcon	Air Academy	Grand Junction
Monarch	Adams City	Ponderosa	Northfield	Widefield	Liberty	Thornton
Greeley West	Central Grand Junction	Highlands Ranch	Aurora Central	Montrose	Durango	Cheyenne Mountain

5A Enrollment 1710 +

<i>Metro</i>	<i>Front Range - South</i>	<i>Front Range North</i>	<i>Centennial</i>	<i>South Metro</i>	<i>Southern League</i>	<i>Metro North*</i>
Arvada West	Mullen	Rocky Mountain	Arapahoe	Castle View	Chaparral	Boulder
Chatfield	Horizon	Fairview	Cherokee Trail	Fruita Monument	Douglas County	Lakewood
Columbine	Erie	Fort Collins	Cherry Creek	Mountain Vista	Fountain Fort Carson	Mountain Range
Ralston Valley	Legacy	Fossil Ridge	Eaglecrest	Rock Canyon	Legend	Northglenn
Denver East	Vista PEAK	Brighton	Grandview	Thunderridge	Pine Creek	Overland
Denver South	Rangeview	Prairie View	Smoky Hill	Valor Christian	Regis Jesuit	Westminster

* 5A Metro North and 4A I-25 can only qualify league champion

CHSAA PLAYOFF INFORMATION

I. PLAYOFF TIMES, SITES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

1. It is the desire of the Association that schools mutually establish game times and dates which best accommodate the interests of each school and community.

NOTE: All mutually established game times and dates are subject to final approval by the CHSAA office. When mutual agreement for the game time and date cannot be reached the following statements will apply:

- a. Saturday, 1:00 p.m. and Friday 7:00 p.m. are preferred.
 - b. Semifinal games will be played on Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Exception: Semifinal games may be played on Friday, 7:00 p.m. if it is mutually agreed upon by both teams, if there is a facility conflict, or there is a television opportunity.
 - c. Thursday playoff games will be allowed through the quarterfinals if mutually agreed upon by both teams. If not agreed upon the preferred game times will be Friday at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 - d. When mutual agreement cannot be reached and travel distance is 150 miles or greater, then the game will be played on Saturday. Friday night will be considered a reasonable option if the distance is less than 150 miles.
 - e. Both home and visitor will be provided the opportunity to supply input in the scheduling process but more weight shall be given to the home team preference.
 - f. Six or seven days rest following the previous game shall be considered adequate and will not be a consideration when establishing the date.
 - g. The Commissioner shall have the sole province to designate game times, dates and sites, including weeks when a school district is hosting more than one game.
2. Stadium Arrangements – The Commissioner (or his designee) has the authority to select the site based on the adequacy of the seating, field conditions, etc.
 3. Playoff games shall not be postponed without the permission of the Commissioner (or his/her designee).
 4. The Commissioner (or his/her designee) shall have the authority to select an alternate site in the event of poor playing conditions.
 5. Determining sites for State Football Playoff Games (**ALL CLASSIFICATIONS**) - In the opening round of the state playoffs, the teams with the higher designation (No. 1 higher than No. 2) will host.
 6. Postseason format following opening round:
 - a. 5A, 4A, 3A, 8man high seed hosts until finals.
 - b. 2A & 6man high seed hosts semi-finals.
 - i. High Seed hosts round 1 and semifinals. For round 2, home team shall be that team which has had the fewer home games during the state playoffs. If both teams have had an equal number of home games the team with the higher designation will host that game.
 - c. 1A higher seeds host round one and home team at each subsequent playoff game shall be that team which has had the fewer home games during the state playoffs. If both teams have had an equal number of home games the team with the higher designation will host that game.

For bracketing purposes, the team designated on the bracket as the higher seed shall remain as the designated home team regardless of where the game is played.

7. State playoff officials for all classifications will be assigned by the CHSAA office.
8. For all playoff contests, there will be an exchange of the most recent two complete digitals. If one school films/videos and the other school does not, the upcoming opponent may secure a film from a previous opponent so that an exchange of digitals can be completed. The exchange must be consummated by 12:00 noon on Monday preceding the next contest.
9. A field to be used for any playoff game must have a field clock, or an extra official shall be hired in order that official time may be kept on the field by officials.
10. Five-person official crews will be used in all state playoff contests for football except 4A and 5A where 7 man crews will be used.
11. Regulation field for 8Man is 40 x 100 yards with 15-yard side zones.
12. Mercy Rule:

In classes 8man, 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A and at all levels (all conference and non-conference games), when a 40-point differential exists at any time during the game a running clock shall be used for the remainder of the game regardless of whether the score drops back below the mercy rule differential. (In 6man, the margin is 45 points). See the following procedures below:

The clock will not be stopped when:

1. The ball goes out-of-bounds.
2. A forward pass is incomplete.
3. A score or touchback occurs.
4. A fair catch is made or awarded.

The clock will be stopped when:

1. The period ends.
2. Charged or injury time out.

The mercy rule will not be used in any live televised championship games.

12. Equal Facilities (Field Phone)

If telephone facilities for both teams are provided as a standard practice (during the regular season) at a playoff site, then the same number of telephone facilities must be provided for both teams. This number must stay consistent throughout the contest. If one set of phones becomes inoperable during the contest, then neither team may use the phones initially provided. Teams are permitted to bring their own set of phones to a contest. These phones will be considered "extra" and are not under the procedure as outlined above.

The responsibility for notifying both teams of phone problems should belong to the referee.

If a school does not provide phone facilities to both teams as a standard practice (during the regular season), then it is up to each team, home or away, to provide its own phones. The home team will not be required to provide phones to the visiting team if it is not done during the regular season.

13. Warm-up Time

A minimum of 45 minutes should be allowed for each team for pre-game warm-up.

TENTATIVE SITES AND NOTIFICATION OF SITES AND GAME TIMES

Schools are asked to have sites tentatively under reservation in advance, thus providing for a quick release of information and game arrangements. The home school must notify the CHSAA Office by 11:00 a.m. Monday as to the exact site and negotiated time of the upcoming contest.

AWARDS

In all classifications, the following team awards will be presented by the Commissioner, Associate Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner at mid-field immediately following the team handshake. The trophy presentation provides a great educational opportunity for both teams. Plan with your team an appropriate way to accept the trophy on behalf of the school.

- 1 Championship trophy
- 1 Second place trophy

CHSAA FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY

The principal of each school participating in the CHSAA football playoffs shall be responsible to see that prescribed procedures pertaining to playoff regulations, as outlined in this section, are followed. If the principal so desires, this responsibility may be delegated to a member of his/her staff.

1. **All performing groups** (i.e., dance groups, pom poms, flag teams, drill teams, etc.) must make previous arrangements with the site director. The site director will arrange for admission either by passes, gate list, or other means.
 - a. Marching band members in official uniform who are scheduled to perform at half time will be admitted at the discretion of the site director and are not limited to the 35 member maximum for pep bands.
 - b. The CHSAA defines a pep band as a musical group from the school's music program and designed to perform before games, at time outs and halftime (sharing time with opposing school's pep band). The number of members allowed is 35, must have typical pep band instrumentation (50% wind instruments is minimum).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

[New playoff financial reporting requirements are in place for the 2024-2025 playoffs](#)

- In a head-to-head game, if the host makes \$1,000 or more in net income from that game (revenue minus expenses), then 25% of the net income gets paid to the visiting team.
 1. If there is a positive net income of \$1,000+ from the game, then a simplified T&PF form will be sent from the host to the visiting school to report the amount that will be paid to the visiting school.
 2. CHSAA will share a form to complete, but the form will not be administered by CHSAA and schools will be required to submit payments to each other on their own.
 3. For multi-team tournaments, regionals, etc., the hosts keep all proceeds since data shows that those events require more expenses paid for by the host.
- No visiting team travel reimbursements will be paid and no revenue will be due to CHSAA
- CHSAA will set the maximum ticket prices for the playoffs that must be followed by the schools. If a host distributes free tickets, this needs to be made equitable to the visiting team. For example, if a host school lets students in for free to a game, then the visiting team students should be allowed in free as well.

The following are the minimum ticket prices for CHSAA state football playoff games as established by the CHSAA Board of Directors:

Prelims, Quarterfinals

General Admission.....	\$10.00
Student (K-12) & Sr. Citizen (age 60).....	\$7.00
Pre-school (age 4 and under).....	Free

Semifinals

General Admission.....	\$12.00
Student (K-12) & Sr. Citizen (age 60).....	\$9.00
Pre-school (age 4 and under).....	Free

Please Note: By mutual agreement, participating schools may charge more than the above minimum prices. However, past experience has shown that public relations are enhanced if people are paying the same price for the same class of game at every location. **Finals prices will be \$20.**

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS, CHSAA PASSES

Each school competing in the playoffs shall provide a gate-list that will serve as complimentary tickets (not including players, coaches and managers) for each playoff game to the host school – A-6 (10 tickets), A-8 (12), 1A (15), 2A & 3A (20), 4A & 5A (25) (except championship games where 15 will be provided). If additional complimentary tickets are desired, they must be purchased at the prevailing rate by the school. Only the CHSAA Courtesy Card, CHSCA Coaches Pass, CHSAA Official Pass (official only) and CHSAA Press Pass will be honored at all football playoff contests. **No league passes will be honored.**

CHSAA COURTESY CARDS & CHSCA CARDS AT PLAYOFF EVENTS

Only the CHSAA Courtesy Card, CHSCA Coaches Pass, CHSAA Official and CHSAA Press Pass will be honored at all football playoff contests. **No league passes will be honored.**

BAND & PEP BAND ADMISSION INFORMATION

Only 35 pep band members, including director, will be admitted at no charge to the state playoffs, providing each member of said groups complies with the following conditions:

1. The site director is notified in advance and the group appears at the entrance designated by the site director.

STATE SPIRIT ENTRY

Roster maximum as designated by classification plus 2 coaches. All spirit teams must be in uniform for free entry into the playoff games.

Varsity spirit rosters team maximum are based on roster classification using basketball enrollment numbers. Based on classification, varsity cheer, varsity co-ed, varsity pom, varsity jazz and varsity hip-hop teams will have roster limits for sideline, competitions and school representation based on classification. Roster limits per class/division will remain the same and not change based on your football classification:

- 1A/2A (Cheer, Pom) will have a maximum of **20** each squad
- 1A/2A (Co-ed) and 3A (Cheer/Co-Ed, Pom) will have a maximum of **20** each squad
- 4A/5A(Cheer, Pom, Co-ed) All Class Jazz and All Class Hip-Hop will have a maximum of **28** each squad

Alternates are included in the varsity roster limits

Cheerleaders must be in uniform, accompanied by two sponsors. Band members must have an instrument in possession and be accompanied by the director.

Official's Game Fees for Football

Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the Officials Info Page on CHSAANow

Varsity (4 or 5 Officials)	\$90
Sub-Varsity	\$65

OFFICIALS' PLAYOFF PAYMENT

Host schools will pay for officials for all games in which they host.
CHSAA will pay for officials for the State Championship games (neutral site).

PROCEDURES FOR ASSIGNING FOOTBALL PLAYOFF OFFICIALS

In assigning officials to all playoff games the CHSAA staff will make every attempt to assign officials from a neutral area within reasonable travel distance from the game site, unless the two competing schools are from the same assignment area.

The CHSAA staff has adopted a standard format for soliciting input and assigning state officials.

- A. Administrator in charge of each activity will solicit input from the following:
1. League presidents - coaches' input at this level.
 - a. Assigners
 2. Coaches Associations (CHSCA)
 3. Area Directors
 - a. President or designee and Board of Directors of CFOA
 - b. Individual Officials
 4. CHSAA Football Committee
 5. District Athletic Directors
- B. The state officials will be selected based on the following:
1. Compliance with CFOA requirements
 2. Recommendations (above)
 3. Past performance evaluations at state
 4. Geographic representation
 5. Attempt to maximize opportunities for officials to work state playoffs. In conjunction with the CFOA, the CHSAA will attempt to use a minimum of 10% officials who have not worked the previous year's state playoffs.
 6. When possible, an official shall not officiate the State Championship finals of the same classification in consecutive years.

Please Note: Some officials areas are requesting application for playoff assignments. If so, that process will also be considered when selections are made.

Neutrality Priority When Assigning Officials to in Post Season/Travel Cost an Impact

Every effort will be made to cut the travel cost when assigning officials in the post season though the priority of assigning will be to maintain neutrality. In general if two teams are competing from different areas of the state, the officials will not be assigned from either of the areas of the competing teams. However if the teams are from the same area, the officials could be assigned from the same area or any combination of areas. Below is the legend for area football officials and a couple of examples.

<u>Football Officials by Area</u>	
1. Metro Denver	10. Greeley
2. Canon City	11. Monte Vista
3. Colorado Springs	12. Durango
4. Pueblo	13. Cortez
5. Trinidad	14. Grand Junction/West Central
6. La Junta	15. Lamar
7. Ft. Collins	16. Craig/Steamboat Springs
8. Boulder/Longmont	17. Glenwood Springs
9. Wray	

Examples 1: Pine Creek from Colorado Springs is playing Highlands Ranch from the metro Denver area. The officials will be selected from any of the other areas. Therefore a crew from Limon, which is from the East, could be selected whether the game is played at Highlands Ranch or Pine Creek.

Example 2: If George Washington from Denver plays Fairview from Boulder, the officials could be selected from any area. The three officials may be selected from three different areas or any combination of areas. This would be true if the two teams were from Durango and Fort Collins.

The concept of mixed crews is important in football where the teams come from all areas of the state. In many cases it is simpler to ensure neutrality by having umpires from two or three different areas of the state on a game. Following these guidelines, a school can determine on its own from which area playoff officials could be assigned.

CHSAA MISCELLANEOUS FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Sportsmanship Protocol at all CHSAA Contests and Activities

1. National Anthem-When the National Anthem is played or the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, students, fans, coaches and players should stand at attention, remove hats and face the flag.
2. Cheerleaders/Fans/Spectators
 - It is recommended that there be positive cheers only.
 - Only cheerleaders may use megaphones.
 - All patrons must wear shirts and shoes. Face painting is allowed.
 - Cheer and tumbling routines must be in front the your team's student body. Routines that spill onto the area of the opposing team are prohibited.
 - Cheer squads may perform under the basket area outside the free vertical lane lines at all times.
3. Banners
 - One cloth or vinyl banner may be used, but must be sanctioned by the game management, principal, and/or athletic director before the contest. Note: Some facilities, including venues used for CHSAA playoffs, may not allow any banners. Paper banners are not allowed at CHSAA sponsored playoff events.

The words and graphics on banners must be positive: i.e. "beat", "outscore", "conquer", etc.; Negative banners: i.e. "kill", "maim", "scalp", etc., will be confiscated and may result in no future use of banners.
 - Banners must not block the view of others.
4. Noisemakers
 - All artificial noisemakers are prohibited. This includes: cowbells, drums, whistles, horns, plastic clackers, thunder sticks, etc. Exception: bleacher kicking is permitted if the facility management allows it.
 - An air horn or cannon may be used on the field only if supervised by a school designee. It should never be disruptive to the playing of the game and used only during dead ball periods at the end of playing action.
 - No musical instruments and/or amplified music, including drums, shall play while the game clock is running or when a 'live-ball' situation is applicable by rule, whether the game is indoor or outdoor. This includes fanfares, drum rolls, etc. The only time the game, once started, is not "in progress" is during a timeout or intermission. This applies to the use of outdoor, in-gym, or in-arena sound systems and public address announcements. The announcer is an integral member of game administration and is a reporter of information not necessarily obvious to spectators. Great care must be exercised to see that neither team gains an advantage from announcements over the public address system. Announcers are not "play-by-play" announcers.
 - There shall be no amplified instruments at any CHSAA playoff events.
5. A list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors can be found in the Game Management and Sportsmanship Expectation Guide included in your school box.

CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM AND NOT AGAINST THE OPPONENT!!

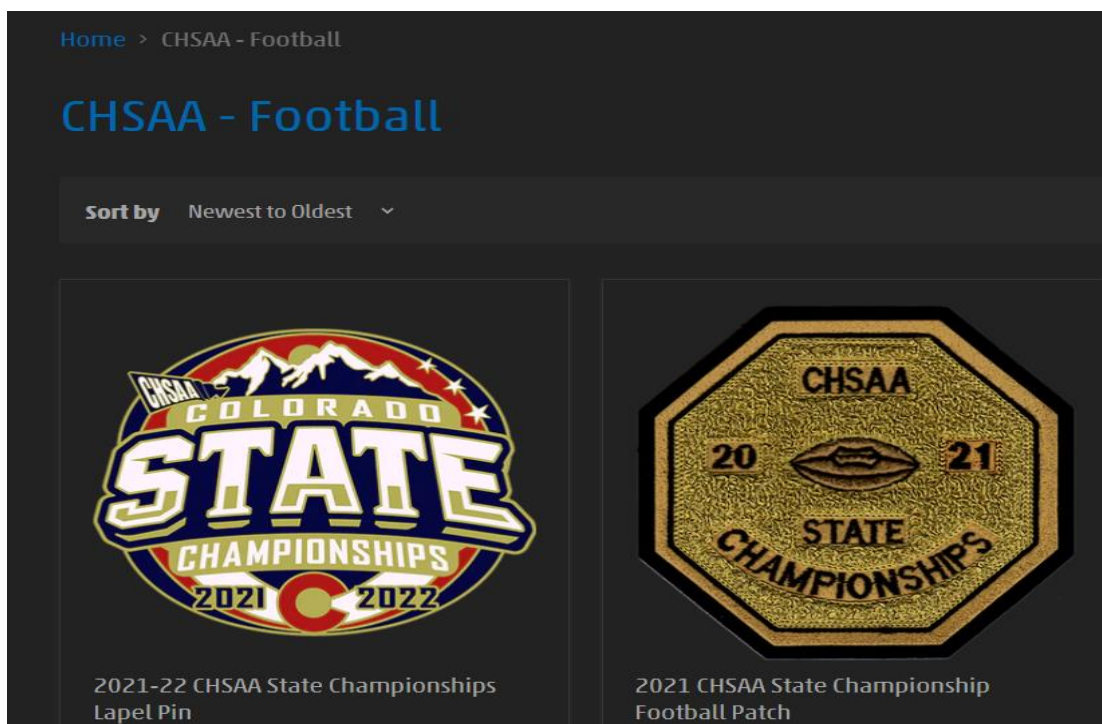


Have your Roster and Team Photo ready for submission to the digital program. Teams are welcome to submit early, however only the state qualifiers will be featured in the digital program.

Please submit your roster and softball team photo directly to Kukulski Brothers [no later than Thursday OCTOBER 24, 2024](mailto:submit@kukulskipublishing.com) : submit@kukulskipublishing.com

Email Subject title: should include the Name of the school/ CHSAA football program

Past and present CHSAA State Football merchandise can always be ordered online at: <https://store.kukulskibrothers.com/collections/chsaa-football>. Please allow 6-8 weeks for any online orders to be delivered. You will receive an email with updates and tracking information.



National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MEMBER AT LARGE

September 1, 2023

ATHLETIC EQUIP REPAIR
MILWAUKEE, WI
ATHLETIC HELMET
ALTO, TX
CAPITOL VARSITY SPORTS
OXFORD, OH
CONTINENTAL ATH SUPPLY
GRIDLEY, CA
HARCO
FT. COLLINS, CO
INTEGRITY SPORT SERVICE
WADSWORTH, OH
MERCURY SPORTS
EVANSVILLE, IN
PRO LINE, INC.
MARIETTA, OH
RIDDELL /ALL AMERICAN
North Ridgeville, OH
SCHUTT RECONDITIONING
Salem, IL
SPORTSMAN'S RECOND
JOHNSTOWN, PA
STADIUM SYSTEM
CANAAN, CT
USA RECONDITIONING
GARFIELD, NJ
XENITH
DETROIT, MI

Dear Sir/Madam,

NAERA (National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association), NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) and helmet manufacturers are informing you of reconditioning and recertification recommendations for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets.

NAERA recommends that during every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball season or practice period, every helmet should be cleaned and inspected regularly by a school or organization staff member with knowledge of manufacturer recommendations. We further recommend every helmet should be reconditioned and recertified annually unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. ONLY a company licensed by NOCSAE can perform the recertification of football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. For a list of NAERA members that are licensed by NOCSAE please visit our web site www.naera.net. More information regarding NOCSAE and their standards can be found at www.nocsae.org.

Reconditioning/Recertification and Sanitization: NAERA recommends every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmet be reconditioned and recertified prior to being issued to all athletes, unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. NAERA further recommends that nonrecertifiable equipment, including but not limited to, football and lacrosse shoulder pads, chest protectors and shin guards be sanitized in accordance to manufacturer guidelines.

On January 1, 2017 NOCSAE put into effect standard ND 001 6.1.1 shown below.

ND 001 6.1.1. Helmets intended to be recertified shall have a recertification interval provided by the manufacturer. Certification life is limited to this time period. Helmets not recertified during the stated interval shall no longer be certified. Recertification interval required for warranty validation shall satisfy this requirement.

What does ND 001 6.1.1 mean for your school or organization? For Football helmets, as of this writing, the requirements from all football helmet manufacturers for recertification is a *minimum* of every other year. If you acquired new helmets in 2022 these helmets will need recertification per this standard for 2024 play.

Helmets that have a lapsed certification per NOCSAE DOC. 001 may be recertified under most conditions. Always ask your NAERA representative if you have doubts. **Remember when your team Captain or Coach tells the official your team is legally equipped, you need to know that is correct and factual.**

Every state association playing under NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) and NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) rules has adopted the NOCSAE standards for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. Other state associations may have similar rules; however, most support the helmet manufactures recommendations.

NAERA encourages schools and organizations to send your equipment for reconditioning and recertification as soon as your season is complete. Please make certain you are using a reconditioning company licensed by NOCSAE. For a list of NOCSAE licensed athletic equipment reconditioners visit www.naera.net.

Sincerely,

Tony Beam

Tony Beam, BA, E.S., CAA



NFHS GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOOTBALL GAME AND PLAY CLOCK OPERATORS

GENERAL

- A. The game and play clock operators are integral members of the officiating crew and game administration. Unfair advantages occur when either the clock is not started or stopped correctly by rule. Great care must be exercised to ensure excessive time lag does not occur in starting or stopping the clocks.
- B. The game and play clock operators must be separate individuals and neither should be tasked with operating the scoreboard.
- C. Both clock operators should meet with the Referee and the game officials responsible for timing the game, either on the field or in the game official's locker room at the time specified by the state association. The following shall be discussed:
 - 1. The sequence of pre-game and halftime activities, the time when kickoff will occur, and the length of the halftime intermission.
 - 2. A complete review of the starting and stopping of the clocks in accordance with the playing rules, to include overtime and the running clock procedure (if applicable).
 - 3. The procedure for communication with the operator(s) during the game and adjustment of the clock, if necessary.

GAME CLOCK

- D. The game clock should be started with a countdown to game time as soon as the facility is opened. At least a 60-minute countdown is desirable.
- E. The halftime intermission will start on the Back Judge's or Referee's signal which is given after the players leave the field. The operator will reset the game clock to three minutes for the warm-up period immediately when the halftime intermission expires and start it without any signal by the officiating crew.
- F. If the game clock malfunctions, the operator may give the game officials the official time. The game official responsible for timing will then pick up the correct time on their stopwatch. Should the game clock be subsequently repaired, its use may be resumed at the Referee's discretion.

G. Game Procedures:

1. On all free kicks (kickoffs), the nearest game official(s) will signal the legal touching of the ball by winding the game clock. The game clock does not start on first touching by Team K, kicks into the end zone or kicks that go out of bounds untouched.
2. The game clock operator should react to game clock-stopping events without waiting for a signal (e.g., a pass that is clearly incomplete). If there is any question as to what occurred (e.g. it is uncertain if the runner stepped out of bounds), the game clock operator should wait for a signal. The primary game clock-stopping events are:
 - (a) Following a touchdown, field goal, touchback or safety.
 - (b) When a forward pass hits the ground.
 - (c) When a runner is tackled clearly beyond the line-to-gain (first down) stake.
 - (d) When it is obvious the runner has gone out of bounds. If there is any doubt, the game clock operator should wait for the signal.
 - (e) Following a fourth-down play.
 - (f) At the end of a play where a flag has been thrown.
3. After the game clock has been stopped, the Referee may start it on the ready-for-play signal. If no ready-for-play signal is given, the game clock operator will start it on a legal snap. If the Referee erroneously starts the game clock at the ready, the signal should be honored.
4. After a first down is awarded to Team A where the ball becomes dead inbounds, the Referee will start the game clock when the ball is spotted but will not blow their whistle. This is known as the "silent wind" and the game clock operator should be prepared to quickly start the game clock as soon as the ball is spotted. Usually, the game clock will be stopped for only 3-5 seconds.
5. If the game clock is erroneously stopped, the Referee may start the game clock before the ready-for-play signal.
6. The game clock operator must record the time of all game clock stoppages so if the game clock erroneously runs on a false start when the game clock is stopped, it can be immediately corrected by the game clock operator without instruction from the Referee.
7. The try (extra point) that follows a touchdown is not a timed down.
8. At the end of a quarter, the game clock should not be reset until the Referee declares the period over by facing the press box and holding the ball over their head. If the period is extended for an untimed down, the game clock is kept at 0:00 until all untimed plays are completed and the period is declared to be over.
9. Any game official may signal a time-out; therefore, the game clock operator should be alert to stop the game clock, especially toward the end of a half.

H. Overtime Procedures:

1. If the game is tied at the end of the fourth quarter, the overtime procedure prescribed by the state association shall be used.
2. The game clock operator will put three minutes (3:00) on the game clock and start it on the

Referee's signal. When the three-minute intermission expires, the game clock shall be turned off.

3. If subsequent overtime periods are necessary, there is a two-minute intermission between periods. These will be timed by the Back Judge. There is no need to put this time on the game clock as most teams will be ready to play before the two minutes expire.

PLAY CLOCK

- I. After a play, the play clock starts at 40 seconds unless there is an administrative stoppage. The play clock should be started when a down ends by rule, but if there is any doubt, the play clock operator should wait for the appropriate signal which will be either S3 (time-out), S7 (dead ball - one arm straight up) or S10 (incomplete pass).
- J. When a legal snap occurs, the play clock is immediately set to 40 seconds. If the play clock is still running after the play starts, it can be reset to 40 seconds during the play. There is plenty of time to reset it to 25 at the end of the down, if necessary, since a 25-second play clock is used only after an administrative stoppage.
- K. If the 40-second play clock runs below 20 seconds and the football has not yet been set on the ground ready for the next down, the play clock operator must be alert for the Referee to reset (pump- up) the clock to 25 seconds. The Referee's signal for this is a pumping motion with one hand up (pushing the sky). The same pumping motion with both hands indicates that the play clock will be reset to 40 seconds.
- L. The following situations result in a 25-second play clock (exceptions noted):
 - 1. Any foul occurs;
 - 2. Play is stopped for an injured player (40 seconds if a defensive player);
 - 3. Any down that involves a score;
 - 4. Either team is granted a time-out;
 - 5. Play is stopped to address an equipment issue (40 seconds if a defensive player);
 - 6. Any down that includes a legal kick followed by a new series;
 - 7. A measurement for a first down;
 - 8. Team possession changes during or after a down;
 - 9. The beginning of any period;
 - 10. An inadvertent whistle occurs; and
 - 11. There is an untimed down.
- M. The play clock shall be turned off whenever it would start with more time than what is remaining in any quarter and the game clock is running or would start on the ready-for-play signal. The reason for this is to avoid confusion over the amount of time remaining to snap the ball.

EXAMPLE 1: A running play ends inbounds with 12 seconds remaining in the quarter and there is a flag on the play. After disposition of the penalty, the game clock will start on the ready and the offense will have 12 seconds to put the ball in play. The quarterback should not be able to view a play clock that starts at 25 seconds.

EXAMPLE 2: A running play ends inbounds on first down with 38 seconds remaining in the quarter. The game clock keeps running, but a 40-second play clock does not start. The second-

down play is an incomplete pass which stops the game clock with 17 seconds remaining and there is a flag on the play for offensive holding. After disposition of the penalty, the game clock will start on the snap. A 25- second play clock will start because the game clock is not running.

- N.** If the play count is interrupted, whether it is because of a malfunction or for an official’s discretionary time-out, it must be reset to 25 seconds. It is not reset to 40 seconds unless there is an administrative stoppage and the rule mandates 40 seconds (e.g., defensive foul). The play clock will never resume at an interrupted count. When a malfunction occurs, the game clock must also be stopped and will restart on the snap.
- O.** If the play clock does not start on time, it should be started as soon as it is noticed. The Back Judge will have a backup clock. If the play clock continues to malfunction, the Referee may direct that it be turned off. The play clock count will then be kept on the field with the Back Judge signaling the last ten seconds of the count.
- P.** If the play clock gets to zero prior to the snap or free kick and a foul for delay of game is called, it is left at zero until the penalty is enforced, then reset. If there is no flag, immediately reset the play clock to 40 seconds.
- Q.** The play clock is used during overtime.
- R.** If a running clock rule applies, it is recommended the visible play clocks be turned off.

PLAY CLOCK/GAME CLOCK PROCEDURES				
Event	Play Clock	Game Clock	Covering Official’s Signal[^]	Referee’s Signal
Dead Ball Inbounds	40	Running	S7	None
Dead Ball Out of Bounds	40	Snap	S3	None
Incomplete Pass	40	Snap	S10	None
Team A Awarded 1st Down	40	Signal	S3	Wind
Penalty Administration *	40/25	Ready	S3	Wind
Charged Team Time-out	25	Snap	S3	Chop
Injury / Helmet Off / Equipment Issues *	40/25	Ready	S3	Wind
Measurement	25	Ready	S3	Wind
Double Change of Possession – Team A Snaps	40	Ready	S7	Wind
Change of Possession - Team B Snaps	25	Snap	S3	Chop
Touchdown	25	N/A	S3	Chop
Try, Field Goal, Safety	25	Varies **	Varies **	Chop
Start of Each Period	25	Snap	Varies	Chop
Legal Kick	25	Snap	S3	Chop
Start of Overtime Period	25	N/A	N/A	Chop
Other Administrative Stoppages ***	25	Ready	S3	Wind

* See Rule 3-6-1a1e Exceptions for Defensive Injuries, Equipment Issues and Fouls

** The Game Clock Will Start on the Legal Touch of a Free Kick
*** Includes Inadvertent Whistle and Period Extension
^ See the Current NFHS Football Rules Book for the NFHS Official Football Signals

***FINAL – 6-1-24**