



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Football Memo #6

September 19, 2024

Good morning football coaches and athletic directors. It's hard to believe that we are already in week 4. District play picks up in two more classes. Just a few notes for everyone to keep in mind for this week and beyond.

1. Unsportsmanlike Fouls

By definition, unsportsmanlike fouls are non-contact fouls and are governed by rules 9-5 and 9-8. We had a scenario where the offensive team was called for an unsportsmanlike foul on a touchdown run. The question arose does the score stand or is the foul enforced from the spot of the foul. Under NFHS rule 8-2-4, the touchdown stands, and the offended team has the option of enforcing the penalty on the try or subsequent kickoff.

2. Missed Field Goals

We received multiple questions regarding where to spot the ball following a missed field goal after games last week. A field goal is a scrimmage kick, just like a punt. If the field goal attempt lands short of the goal line and rolls out of bounds at the 5-yard line, the new series will begin at the 5-yard line. If the attempt makes it to the end zone, we have a touchback. The ball is not spotted where the holder's knee was on the ground or from the previous spot.

3. Quarter Limitations

We continue to receive questions on the daily and weekly quarter limitation rule. A player may play in 5 quarters a day and 8 quarters a week. One play means one quarter played. There are two exceptions to the quarter limitation rule, with the most common exception involving special team plays. A player who participates in only free kick downs and scrimmage kick downs during the game is not charged with game participation as it relates to the 14-game player limitation rule nor do these free kick or scrimmage kick downs count toward the five-quarter daily/eight quarters weekly rule.

4. Equipment Points of Emphasis

We thoroughly covered knee pads and eye black in the rules meeting, and we have seen a drastic improvement on both items through the first three weeks of the season. With that being said, we need consistent enforcement from week to week on the rule. When one crew doesn't enforce the rule, their peers are put in a tough position when attempting to enforce the rule and a coach says, "We wore the exact same thing last week and weren't called for it."

Let's have a great week 4. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared