



# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Football Memo #10

October 17, 2024

Good morning football coaches and athletic directors –

We have reached the end of the regular season for four of our classes. Once we collect every score in Class A-2A and 8-player, we will post a qualifier list on our website. Schools are to contact us immediately (by midnight) if they believe there is an error in the qualifying list. October 25 matchups will be posted on our website at 10 am on Saturday, October 19.

We encourage everyone to review the postseason manual to review qualifying, tiebreaking and hosting selection criteria. Also, please review the current standing page for any discrepancies, in particular the 17-point tiebreaker for 8-player district runner-up host criteria and for any three-way ties in which all three teams defeated each other in the four classes that end their regular season this week.

### 1. Illegal Substitution vs. Illegal Participation

We've had multiple scenarios over the last week of having more than 11 on the field at a given time. We did address breaking the huddle with more than 11 a couple weeks ago. A couple of definitions to keep in mind as it relates to this topic. 2-32-15 states, "A substitute becomes a player when he enters the field and communicates with a teammate or a game official, enters the huddle, is positioned in a formation or participates in the play." 2-32-12 reads, "A replaced player is one who has been notified by a substitute that he is to leave the field. A player is also replaced when the entering substitute becomes a player." Once becoming a replaced player, the athlete has three seconds to start leaving the field of play.

Related to this topic, our preference would be for our officials to penalize the offending team five yards with illegal substitution prior to the snap compared to the snap occurring and now having a 15-yard penalty for illegal participation. While this is preference, we understand there are times this cannot occur in a timely manner.

### 2. Blindsided Blocks

I'm continuing to have blindsided blocks sent in weekly by coaches. From follow up emails/conversations, our officials are doing a better job of penalizing the act, but this goes beyond the official simply calling the foul or not. Coaches, we need to continue to stress to our athletes what is and isn't a legal hit during film and practice sessions.

### 3. Equipment Point of Emphasis

We have seen much improvement with both eye black and knee pads as the season has progressed. As we head into the postseason, these rules need to continue to be stressed to both coaches and officials. As I shared earlier this season, a sleeve with a knee pad, similar to what is used in other sports, would meet the rules requirement if you have an athlete that is a little tall for their pants.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared